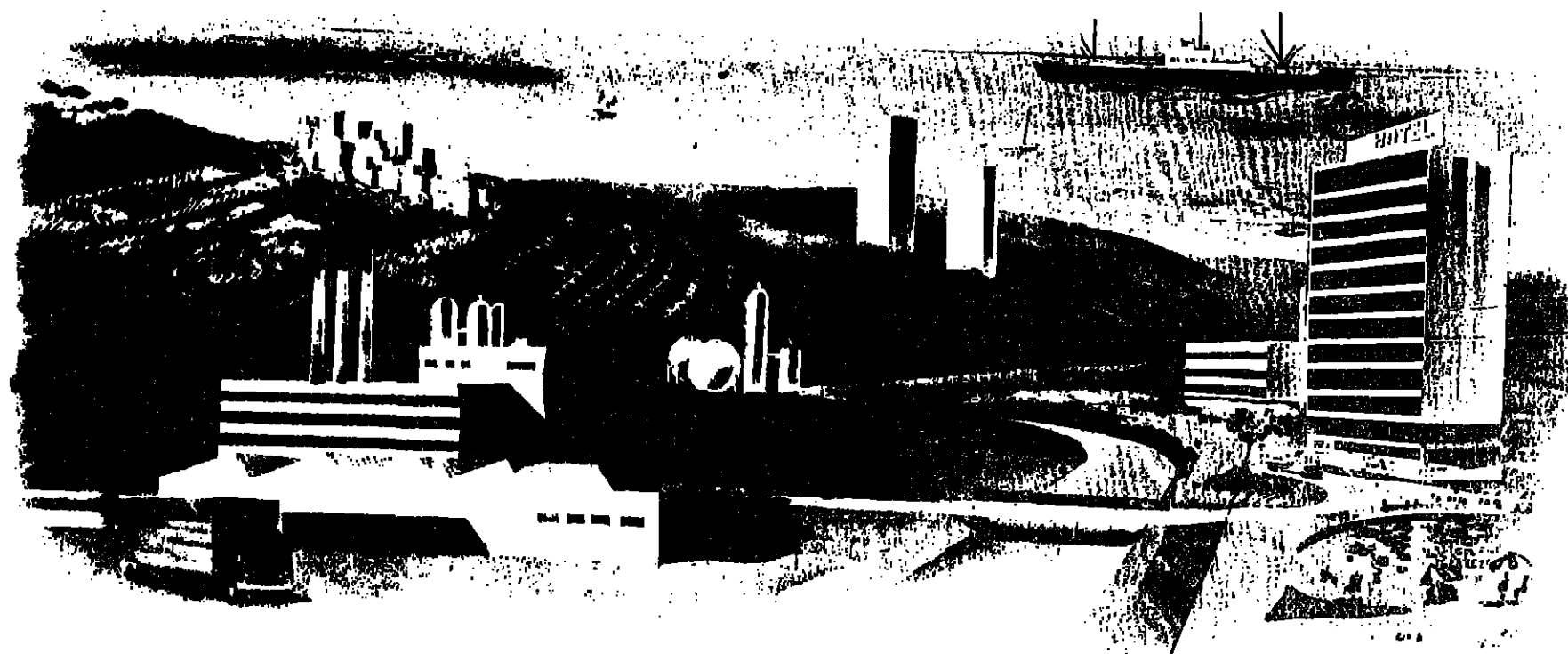


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THE LATEST NEWS FROM ISRAEL

Published in Jerusalem
וצא לאור בירושלים

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- The unpredictable Ezer Weizman — 11
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Children of Soviet immigrants light Hanukkah candles for the first time in their lives in a practice on Friday in their kindergarten in Kiryat Shalom, Tel Aviv. The eight-day Hanukkah holiday starts on Tuesday night and kindergartens and schools go on vacation on Thursday. (Simonsky, Israel Sun)

A winter in Israel planned for homeless Italian children

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — Abie Nathan, veteran promoter of Middle East peace and welfare activist, is flying to Naples this week and returning with 300 children aged 8-13 left homeless by the earthquake. His plan is to place them in kibbutzim and with urban families for the winter.

Nathan told *The Jerusalem Post* that he was taking \$15,000 as a contribution from his Voice of Peace radio station to buy essential medical supplies and other necessities for the earthquake victims.

An insurance company and an airline have undertaken to transport the children to Israel and back, Nathan said.

He said he was acting with the full support of the Italian Embassy, the Israel Foreign Ministry and various welfare committees.

In Naples, he intends to collect homeless children with the help of

the local emergency authorities. "These people are very poor and really need our help. Let's help the children find shelter for the winter, and celebrate Christmas in Israel," Nathan urged.

The Italian Embassy has found itself overwhelmed with offers of help from Israelis wishing to aid the victims of the earthquake which has wrought havoc in southern Italy. Italian Embassy Counsellor Francesco Capece told *The Jerusalem Post* on Friday that he and his colleagues had been deeply touched by the "wonderful response of so many Israelis" to the plight of his countrymen. Many doctors had volunteered to help, he revealed, but their inability to speak Italian would make it difficult for them to be effective.

The counsellor also paid tribute to the immediate response of Magen David Adom and other organizations in dispatching much-needed medical aid and tents

Maccabees to carry torch to Cairo

TEL AVIV. — The 36th Hanukkah torch borne by Israel's Maccabi sports organization will symbolically reach Cairo for the first time this week.

Five young Maccabi members are carrying the torch by van to a Cairo synagogue, for lighting of the first Hanukkah candle.

Other Maccabi members will car-

ry the torch to the U.S. and various parts of Europe.

Locally, torch runs will reach every part of the country, along 12 routes including settlements in the West Bank, and the Golan Heights, and on the southern tip of the Sinai Peninsula. The central torch lighting ceremony will take place at Modi'in, the burial place of the Maccabees, on Thursday.

The military government last week cut off telephone service to

Arab summit on 'Palestinian national aspirations' Hussein backtracks on 242

Jerusalem Post Staff

Fifteen Arab states last week wound up their three-day summit in Amman with an unprecedented collective statement announcing their formal rejection of UN Resolution 242, which has served as the basis for peace negotiations since the 1967 war. Reference was made to the "failure of the resolution to take account of Palestinian national aspirations."

Jordan had previously supported the resolution.

The move, adopted by a largely conservative Arab bloc led by Saudi Arabia, was said to have been devised by Iraq, whose President Saddam Hussein cast a heavy shadow on the controversial Amman parley.

The summit took place as Syrian troops massed on the Jordanian border and Syrian leaders charged that Jordan was aiding forces who were seeking to undermine the Damascus regime of President Hafez Assad (see below).

The summit also ended with a note of support for Iraq in its war with Iran, and with an attack on Syria for having persuaded the Palestine Liberation Organization, Lebanon, Algeria, Libya and South Yemen to boycott the Amman

deliberations.

The statement was viewed as signalling that the Amman summit participants, including Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states, were formally joining Iraq in support of Iraq's war efforts, and that the same countries were standing by both Jordan and Iraq in their confrontation with the Syrian-led radical camp.

Other resolutions included:

- The reiteration of opposition to the Egyptian-Israeli Camp David peace accords, which the Amman summit participants said had only led to Cairo's separation from the Arab world and the undermining of Arab unity.
- The adherence to the boycott of the government of President Anwar Sadat.

- The rejection of UN Resolution 242, which was described as "inadequate" groundwork for resolving Israel-Arab issues, especially those concerning Palestinian national aspirations.
- The insistence on a comprehensive Middle East settlement whose ingredients, King Hussein said, should include two main elements: Israel's withdrawal to the pre-1967 frontiers "particularly from Arab Jerusalem"; and the recognition of self-

determination and a national homeland "on their own territory."

- The reassertion that the Palestine Liberation Organization is the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people; and
- The deployment of oil riches towards the achievement of political goals, economic development, and the buildup of Regional Arab military complexes.

Addressing the closing session of the summit, Hussein criticized Syria for "blocking the Palestine Liberation Organization and Lebanon from attending the Amman summit."

He reassured the Palestinians that the moderate Arab powers and oil-rich Gulf states meeting in Amman harboured no grudges against the PLO. He said they would continue all and for the Palestinians in their struggle against Israel.

The PLO, he said, has been dragged into "marginal, inter-Arab differences." But the summit will stick to its commitments to the Palestinian cause, the king asserted.

"The conference's crucial accomplishment is the assertion of the inadmissibility of inter-Arab wars and that no Arab weapon should be raised against any Arab power, irrespective of motives," Hussein said.

More unrest on West Bank

Jerusalem Post Staff

Arab unrest on the West Bank — mainly by students — continued last week, with security forces having to fire tear gas to disperse a demonstration in Ramallah on Saturday, when Israeli military vehicles were stoned.

On Tuesday night of last week, a bus carrying Jewish children to their West Bank homes from a birthday party in another West Bank settlement, was ambushed and shot at by a terrorist who lay in ambush. The driver and an armed escort were wounded.

The student unrest on the West Bank erupted just over two weeks ago, when the Military Government ordered Bir Zeit College, near Ramallah, shut down for a week. This followed the staging on campus of "Palestine Week."

On Friday police, backed by border police units, used force to disperse some 300 youths and men who marched down a main street in East Jerusalem following a benefit soccer match for the Bir Zeit students committee. Thirty people were arrested.

In Nablus last week, there was a curfew as intensive house-to-house searches continued east of the town for the terrorist who attacked the bus which was carrying the Jewish children from Elion Moreh to Kedumim.

The military government last week cut off telephone service to

Israel 'closely watching' Syria-Jordan confrontation

Jerusalem Post Staff

Israel is keeping a careful watch on events on the Jordan-Syria border following the Syrian military build-up and the threats against the Jordanian regime. The Damascus regime charges that Jordan has become "a major training camp" for anti-Syria guerrillas.

The Syrians began massing troops as Arab states were meeting in the Jordanian capital of Amman for a summit, which was boycotted by Syria and other hard-line governments and also the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The Palestine question was a central theme at the summit, but Syria wanted the meeting postponed because of what it called the "deep divisions" in the Arab world created by the Iraq-Iran war.

There was speculation that Syria reinforced its troops to "warn Jordan" against continuing its support of Iraq in the war against Iran, and also not to become a party to the U.S.-backed initiative for an Arab-Israeli peace.

While the Syrian troops pose no direct threat to Israel at present sources here said the fact that the

forces are located only 40 kilometres from the border has caused concern in Jerusalem.

However, despite the doubling of Syrian forces on its border with Jordan to two divisions in the past few days, Israeli analysts stand by their original contention that war between the two countries is not inevitable.

By Thursday, the Syrians had moved some 530 tanks and approximately 20,000 men to the Deraa region, 10 kilometres north of the border. The troops from the First Division and another division were brought from the Syrian hinterlands.

The Jordanians also have nearly two divisions in the area on permanent deployment and have placed these on a high state of alert. There have been no incidents or signs of overt hostility between the forces.

But, however, tension is extremely high and the situation is exacerbated by bellicose statements from Damascus.

Observers here noted that massive movement of troops by the Syrians as an extension of the country's political goals is conceivable. (Continued on page 2.)

NEWSSTAND PRICES IN LOCAL CURRENCY

Australia	\$1.10	Italy	L1 200
Canada	\$1.25	South Africa	Rd1 10
Denmark	DKS 50	Sweden	SK4 00
Germany	DM1 75	Switzerland	SF1 85
Holland	DF2 00	United Kingdom	40p
Israel	IS3 50	United States	\$1 00

Peres takes first round in contest with Rabin

By JOSHUA BRILLIANT
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — Yitzhak Rabin says he is still in the race for the Labour Party's nomination for the premiership despite his setback in last week's election of delegates for the convention which will decide the issue. Party Chairman Shimon Peres stated he was confident he would win the nomination.

Both will now campaign heavily among the 3,000 delegates to the convention scheduled for December 17 and 18.

Aharon Harel, Peres' campaign manager, said that his camp had won 75 per cent of the 150,000 votes last week. Harel was confident his estimate was accurate. The floating vote is marginal and is part of the 25 per cent of the votes which had not been given to Peres' camp, he added.

Rabin said he believed he had the solid support of 35 to 40 per cent of the convention delegates. Another 15 per cent are undecided, a Rabin aide said.

Peres' aides claimed their victory was particularly decisive in Tel Aviv, where they won 80 per cent of the votes; in Jerusalem, with more than 90 per cent; and in Haifa, with 75 per cent; and Galvatiyim, where they swept all the seats.

But Rabin claimed the sweeping victories were usually in polling stations which had barred his observers. In Jerusalem, they were allowed into the stations only in the afternoon, when it was too late, he said.

A record 140,000 of the Labour Party's 263,000 members turned out to vote in polling stations throughout the country — in the cities, development towns, kibbutzim and moshavim.

The voters did not choose between Peres and Rabin; they elected 2,861 people who, along with 240 party representatives in the Knesset, the Labour Party's central committee and the party's Leadership Bureau, will make the choice.

None of the convention members is legally committed to support any candidate. Some may go to the convention next month on the basis of personal friendships in their branches rather than their alliance with either Peres or Rabin. Moreover, both camps will try to win the undecided members during the three weeks preceding the convention.

A recent opinion poll shows that Rabin continued to be the favourite for the premiership, ahead of Prime Minister Menachem Begin. The poll findings were:

Who is most suited to be prime minister?	Oct.-Nov.	Aug.-Sep.
Rabin	24.4	24.7
Begin	22.7	18.8
Peres	12.1	11.4
Naftali	5.8	1.2
Weizman	2.7	3.5
Dayan	2.8	1.3

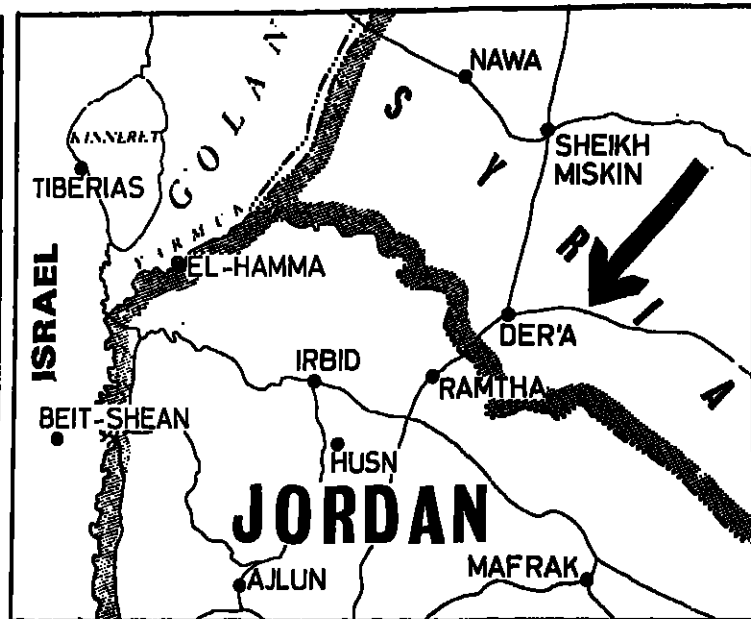
(Rabin sees, page 8; The feud in Labour, 10.)

What the papers are saying

Ha'aretz (Independent) calls on the Knesset Finance Committee to check the "outrageous" amounts of compensation recommended for the settlers who will have to be evacuated from Yarmit and the other settlements in the Rafiah Area. Approaches under terms of the peace treaty with Egypt.)

The paper says: "The Labour Party has a special obligation to give its opinion — which it has so far strangely withheld — on the matter. The public has the right to hear the opinion of the leading opposition party on this horrifying speculation in peace."

Davar (Histadrut labour federation) comments on the recent unrest in the administered territories: "The government has not succeeded in instilling an atmosphere of reconciliation, and there is no reason to believe that with the passage of more time — or the adoption of a tougher policy than the existing one — any reconciliation will be forthcoming on its own. No one will dispute the fact that the security of Israel — whether in or out of uniform — must be one of the army's main tasks in the administered territories. The same applies to local residents who are on terrorist 'hit lists.' But this is a function of



The Jordanian-Syrian border, where both countries are now said to be concentrating troops. The arrow points at Dera, reportedly the headquarters of the Syrian armoured division which was moved south to the border.

ISRAEL 'WATCHING'

(Continued from page 1.)

monplace. In 1976, two divisions moved to the Iraqi border were withdrawn five months later without a shot being fired. In 1976, 1977 and 1978, the Syrians repeated the act with troop movements in Lebanon, again in Iraq and close to the Jordanian frontier.

This time, the move is attributed by some observers to the Syrian boycott of the Arab League summit in Amman and highlights the schism in the Arab world over the Iran-Iraq war.

What is not consistent with the analysis that the move is only demonstrative is the fact that the Syrians almost doubled their forces on the border on the same day the summit ended. There has been no clear explanation of this from Israeli military officials.

In Israel, a close watch is being kept on events. Should there be escalation and even limited conflict between the two — constituting a possible danger to the stability of the Hashemite regime in Jordan — Israel would have to reassess its position, sources said.

Israel foreign minister Yitzhak Shamir commented on the Jordan-Syria situation as he left on Sunday for a five-day visit to France. "We are facing a situation of dangerous tension and of course we hope there will not be a war. I cannot see any reason for a war. In any case, we are concerned by the situation."

Shamir said the struggles between Arab states are not connected with the Israeli-Arab dispute "and therefore we are entirely passive in this (the Syrian-Jordanian) conflict."

The confrontation was also the subject of a briefing at Sunday's cabinet meeting by prime minister and minister of defence Menachem Begin and deputy defence minister Mordchai Zippori.

"Cabinet members put questions to the two men, and they were given answers," Government secretary Arye Naor said after the meeting. Israel is continuing to watch the situation carefully, he added.

The Syrian and Jordanian forces are now within 10 kilometres of each other.

Eye-witnesses said the border was open, with heavy traffic still flowing unhindered between the two countries and the joint border security post working normally.

The opposing buildups have generated international concern. U.S. State-Department spokesman John Trainor said "we regard Jordan as a friend whose security is important to the United States."

Syria is considered the Soviet Union's closest Middle Eastern ally. Assad last month signed a 20-year treaty of friendship and cooperation with Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev.

Syria has a vastly larger military force than Jordan, but Assad's troops are spread thin, with contingents in Lebanon, facing Israel on the Golan Heights, and along Syria's border with Iraq.

Jordan's army, consisting of about 70,000 men backed by 800 tanks and 60 combat aircraft, compared to Syria's 300,000-man army with 3,000 tanks and 400 combat planes, is rated as one of the best-trained Arab armies.

THE WEATHER

	Saturday's	Sunday's
	Min-Max	Max
Jerusalem	9-20	21
Nahariya	9-25	26
Safed	9-16	17
Tiberias	—	23
Nazareth	12-21	22
Sameria	12-22	23
Tel Aviv	11-22	23
Jericho	10-26	27
Qana	12-25	26
Sacraheba	10-24	25
Silat	12-27	28

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UNREST

(Continued from page 1.)

the Nabulus area, and residents who wanted to cross into Jordan were turned back by security forces at the bridge. The Nabulus local council sent off letters protesting the retaliatory steps. The military government has used similar steps in the past following terrorist operations.

In Bethlehem, students at the Catholic University were on strike during last week. A group of them set out for the town centre to demonstrate. They were met by roadblocks at the entrance to the town but 40 managed to reach the Bethlehem municipality building, where they staged a sit-in for several hours.

There were reports of student unrest in Hebron as well.

New housing for Arabs in Galilee

By YOEL DAR

ACRE. — The first Arab residential development project has been completed at Makr village, five kilometres east of here. It consists of 324 flats, mostly of the cottage type. The flats vary in floor space from 68sq.m. to 102sq.m.

The Housing Ministry, which initiated the project three years ago, also put up a schoolhouse, two kindergartens, a shopping centre and a mosque.

The "development town" is destined particularly for Acre residents who live in Old City slums and for Arab newlyweds. Each family purchasing a flat receives compensation from the government or from Acre municipality for their old house and a large loan from the Housing Ministry.

Until several months ago, many Acre residents refused to move to Makr, preferring to purchase a flat in the new town of Acre, populated by Jews, most of them new immigrants. But recently many Arab families changed their mind and have moved to Makr.

Up to now 80 families have bought flats and an additional 100 families are due to get their keys by next spring.

The planners consider expanding the development project to meet the growing demand, mainly among slum dwellers here.

At least 300 families live in old buildings, some of which are in danger of collapsing. In many cases families with ten children live in one or two damp rooms, without some of the most basic facilities.

The planners designed the new flats in Makr to suit the Arab taste. Families which live in 68sq.m. may expand their flats to 100sq.m. at a relatively small expense.

Shamir seeks shift in EC Mideast stand

Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, who left on Sunday for a five-day visit to France, said he hoped to discuss with French leaders the new European Middle East peace initiative.

Shamir was invited to France by the country's organized Jewish community. While in France, he is expected to confer with his counterpart, Foreign Minister Jean Francois-Poncet and President Valerie Giscard d'Estaing. Shamir was also expected to bring up the recent anti-Semitic attacks in France.

Shamir will call at the Elysee on Thursday, after Giscard returns from the European Community summit in Luxembourg, where the EC leaders are deciding on the future of their Middle East initiative.

Shamir's main contention will be that the Iran-Iraq war and the change of administration in Washington ought to prompt the Europeans to think again before pushing ahead with their initiative.

Shamir has consistently urged his EC colleagues to hold fire on their initiative and let the Camp David process run its course. Israel is particularly opposed to that part of the EC's "Venice Declaration" issued last June, which calls for the PLO to be "associated with" the peace talks.

Israel argues now that the PLO has been seriously weakened by the Gulf War, where it is seen by other Arab states as backing Iran, and where its own early mediation efforts totally failed.

Kidnapper get life

Zvi Gur, who had been charged with the kidnapping of eight-year-old Oran Yarden last June — a crime that shocked the nation — was convicted on Sunday and sentenced to life imprisonment plus another 34 years.

HOME NEWS No support yet for Weizman party

By DAVID LANDAU
Post Diplomatic Correspondence

A leading Liberal Party sympathizer of Ezer Weizman, Jewish Agency chairman Arye Dulzin, has pointedly dissociated himself from Weizman's plans to form a new party.

"I wish him the best of luck," Dulzin told *The Jerusalem Post* last week. "But that's all. Frankly, I have been very disappointed with Ezer Weizman over recent months." (Weizman was ousted from premier Begin's Herut Party last week following his support of a no-confidence motion against the government's economic policy, submitted by opposition groups. The motion was only narrowly defeated.)

Dulzin was a key figure in behind-the-scenes maneuvers, involving Weizman and other Likud personalities, a year ago which were reportedly aimed at forcing Premier Menachem Begin's early retirement and his replacement by Weizman. Dulzin's passive — indeed negative — response to Weizman's current proclamation of independence must be seen as something of a blow to the former defence minister, especially as it seems to typify the reaction of other erstwhile sympathizers and would-be followers.

There have been no public protestations of support for Weizman from any leading political figures. Of the two men he men-



Dr. Ram Yishai, chairman of the Israel Medical Association, makes a point during last week's demonstration of doctors outside the Knesset against the proposed amendment to the Anatomy and Pathology Law.

Doctors and MKs spar over anatomy bill

Post Knesset Reporter

Passage of the controversial amendment to the Anatomy and Pathology Law this week appears almost certain.

The bill — demanded by the religious parties in the coalition under the coalition agreement — sharply curtails autopsy procedures and organ transplant by requiring doctors to obtain permission from the deceased's family before performing these operations.

Five members of the Likud's Liberal wing who said last week they could not vote for the amendment changed their minds after their coalition partners worked on them for several hours, ultimately promising changes in the wording of the amendment.

The Liberal waverers were apparently won over by changes which were presented to them as concessions by the religious parties. Those state that no relative would be able to object to an autopsy if the Health Minister gazetted a regulation declaring an epidemic from which the deceased was thought to have died; and in cases where objections are allowed, and one relative approves while a second objects, the objector must have as close a relationship to the deceased as the one who approves.

Another concession, the Liberal waverers were told, would invalidate relatives' objections entered in his recent TV interview — which he spoke about the possibility of setting up a new party — Moshe Dayan gave a noncommittal answer and Yitzhak Rabin declared that he would stay in Labour, regardless of the outcome of his leadership contest with Shimon Peres.

Another man mentioned as a possible partner with Weizman in founding a new party is former justice minister Shmuel Tamir. But Tamir has remained remarkably reticent in the wake of Weizman's TV appearance. Political pundits believe he will seek his way back into the Likud before the elections rather than chance his luck again in a new party. (Tamir is one of the few survivors still clinging to the remaining vestige of Yigael Yadin's Democratic Movement.)

Arye Dulzin told *The Post* that he had been "disappointed" with Weizman ever since the latter resigned as defence minister earlier in the year. His electioneering on behalf of U.S. President Jimmy Carter was another rash error, Dulzin said.

Dulzin himself was "comfortable and proud" to be chairman of the Jewish Agency and had "no other thoughts" — at least for the time being.

Some observers cited the phrase "for the time being" as possibly signifying that Dulzin had not closed the door completely on the idea of joining Weizman in the future.

There is no need for him to take the risk now," these observers reasoned. "He can always jump on later."

Weizman's ouster from the Herut last week by the party secretariat came after what members said was his last-minute plea to be allowed to remain.

Twelve members of the 18-man secretariat voted for the ouster, one voted against, and two abstained. Secretariat Chairman Yoram Aridor said it was "morally incumbent" on Weizman to surrender his Knesset seat. But Weizman immediately made it clear that he does not intend to do so. He asked Herut Knesset faction chairman Haim Kaufman to "arrange me a new seat" — presumably among the mini-factions and unaffiliated members.

The secretariat decision was expected. Weizman addressed the secretariat for 90 minutes at the beginning of the session, seeking to explain "why my conscience led me to vote against the government" in the no-confidence debate at the Knesset.

His statement, low-key but emotional, plainly stirred the sympathy of many secretariat members. But after a tough three-hour debate, the majority voted for what they said was "the inevitable, unavoidable action" that the party had to take in consequence of Weizman's vote.

(The unpredictable Ezer, page 11; Editorial comment, page 22.)

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Remarkable deeds by ordinary people

By JUDY SIEGEL
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Ordinary citizens who have performed exceptionally good deeds last week received the President's Volunteer Award at a ceremony attended by 3,000 other volunteers at Binyanei Ha'uma in Jerusalem.

"We have become accustomed to complaining about a problem and waiting for the authorities to take it," said President Yitzhak Navon after presenting the volunteers with special plaques and certificates.

"Instead, we must turn the request inward and work on it ourselves."

Sara Melzer, chairman of the Centre for Volunteer Services, noted that there are tens of thousands of such people in the country, who represent "the beautiful Israel."

Ora Kochavi, a pupil from Rosh Ha'ayin speaking for the winners, said that the little retarded boy she works with as a volunteer "makes me feel I'm something."

The following individuals, groups and institutions won the seventh annual prize:

• Edith Samuel — Born in Holland and a survivor of the Holocaust, she came on aliyah in 1955 with her husband and seven children. She immediately began her volunteer work in the Hadara area with other new immigrants. Despite language difficulties, she went to the homes of olim to encourage them and advise them on personal problems and dealing with the bureaucracy.

• Dov Glasner — Though not young or in good health himself, this Haifa resident is a volunteer handyman in the homes of old people. He is the address for elderly who are helpless with a clogged drain, leaky faucet or broken door. He also teaches pupils at vocational schools to make similar repairs at the homes of the aged and lonely.

• Avinoam Luria — A biologist by profession, this Haifaite spends his spare time counselling wives and children of prison inmates. For the children — who may or may not know the truth about their fathers — he serves as a paternal figure. He also visits jails to encourage educational and cultural activities.

• Uri Cohen and his team of Israeli reporters — This Netanya group run a unique library of 13,000 volumes printed in Braille. Seventy volunteers, who trained for six months, type texts of necessary books, working especially hard

before the beginning of a new school year.

• Yitzhak Ya'acobi — A retired journalist, this Kiryat Shmona resident works with discharged soldiers from disadvantaged families who find it difficult to find their way in civilian life. He "adopts" them, helping them to find work or a place to live.

• Majid Atallah — A businessman from Nazareth, he dedicates several hours a day, as he has for the last 20 years, to organizing Catholic Scouts. He holds courses for counsellors and attracts street children to the movement.

• Hila Messenberg and Vardit Edral — These 17-year-old Petah Tikva residents have for several years helped disadvantaged youngsters and their parents. After tutoring the youngsters, they taught the mother to read and helped them with household chores like sewing and cooking. They volunteer to play with the youngsters when their mother is busy.

• Comprehensive State Religious School of Rosh Ha'ayin — Ora Kochavi coordinates 30 volunteer tutors who opened a club for tutoring and befriending orphans or handicapped children.

The trial long delayed by a chain of legal maneuvers, is expected to last several months, during which the court is scheduled to hear about 100 witnesses from several European countries.

Six Israeli observers left for Kiel, last week to attend the trial.

Between August 1942 and July 1944, Asche helped organize 28 transports, in which 20,287 Jews, including 5,008 children, were sent to Auschwitz. Most of the deportees were gassed soon after their arrival, and only 1,205 survived the war.

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OBITUARY

Painter-author N. Guttman

TEL AVIV (Itim). — Painter and author Nahum Guttman died Saturday night at the age of 82 after a lengthy illness. He is survived by his wife, Dora, and son, Professor Menahem Guttman.

Guttman was born in Serbia in 1898 and later moved to Odessa where he studied in a school founded by his father, the writer S. Ben-Zion. At age eight, he came to this country with his family and studied at the Herzliya gymnasium. During World War I, he served with the Jewish Legion, and later studied art for six years in European capitals.

There he began to illustrate children's books before his return to this country. Guttman won many art prizes and is

Trial begins of former SS man

KIEL, West Germany (AP). — A former SS lieutenant went on trial here last week for his part in deporting 28,000 Jews from Belgium and northern France to Nazi concentration camps during World War II. He is Kurt Asche, 70, a former chemist.

The trial long delayed by a chain of legal maneuvers, is expected to last several months, during which the court is scheduled to hear about 100 witnesses from several European countries.

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HOME NEWS

Official calls for legalization of 'soft' drugs

By BENNY MORRIS
Jerusalem Post Reporter

The director of the Labour and Social Affairs Ministry's corrective services division last week called for the legalization of hashish and marijuana as part of "a fresh approach to Israel's drug problem."

Meanwhile, an Israeli medical researcher says these two drugs can prevent pregnancy.

Speaking on the first day of a two-day symposium on drugs at the Hebrew University's Mount Scopus campus, Dr. Menahem Horowitz called for the law to make a distinction between "hard" and "soft" drugs.

Horowitz said that the police and the courts treat hashish smokers in the same way as they treat heroin addicts. The lack of such a distinction, he said, has only contributed to the increased use of drugs and to the increase of drug-linked crime.

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addicts to turn to crime to finance their habit.

Dr. Horowitz also proposed that the government "take the market away from the pushers and undercut them" by giving "proven addicts" drugs or drug substitutes in a controlled manner "freely" for symbolic fees.

Horowitz's proposal which implied that society rather than the police, deal with drug users and addicts (though not pushers), called for a regulation and licensing system for drug distribution to the public.

He said that drugs should not be given to minors except in special cases.

Addressing the same symposium as Dr. Horowitz, Dr. Dan Ayalon of the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot and Tel Aviv's Ichilov Hospital reported that a chemical agent in hashish and marijuana tends to suppress ovulation, which means that pregnancy is prevented.

This discovery may open up the prospect of developing a new oral contraceptive.

Ayalon said that his experiments with rats have demonstrated that ovulation has almost consistently been inhibited when the rats were

injected with Tetra hydrocannabinol (THC).

This substance is found in hashish and marijuana.

He reported that THC was found to inhibit ovulation when injected into the central nervous system, by suppressing the flow of hormones which stimulate ovulation. It was also found that THC also inhibited ovulation when injected directly into the womb membrane.

The University's rector, Prof. Rafael Mechoulam, who chaired the session and who himself has conducted research into the medical properties of cannabis, said that Ayalon's research points to possible detrimental effects of hashish and marijuana use on the hormonal and reproductive systems.

But he added that "on the other hand, cannabis may one day furnish the basis of a new oral contraceptive."

Other papers given at the conference dealt with the use of hashish and marijuana to ease and sometimes suppress pain and vomiting in cases where more conventional addictive drugs, such as morphine, have lost their potency after protracted use.

Israel TV that his doctors here had warned him that he had only one year to live unless he went to Cleveland for the operation. He said the operation had cost him about \$7,000.

Goren said that American Jews had commented on the "lynch atmosphere" in Israel, after some local politicians and doctors had criticized his decision to seek treatment abroad claiming it was a blow to the professional credibility of Israel's medical facilities and expertise.

Later, Chief Rabbi Goren said on

Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren arrived home last week following open-heart surgery in Cleveland on October 21, and was greeted by relatives, rabbis, MKs, and scores of other well-wishers.

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Gur-Aryeh warns against Hebrew bill

Post Knesset Reporter

The prime minister's adviser on Arab affairs, Binyamin Gur-Aryeh, has warned that a private members' bill on the primacy of the Hebrew language in Israel could upset the carefully maintained balance between Hebrew and Arabic as the country's two official languages.

In response, MKs Moshe Shamir (Tehiya) and Zalman Shoval (Likud-Rafi) promised to insert into their bill clauses buttressing the role of Arabic as the dominant language among non-Jews in

Israel, and ensuring its privileged position alongside Hebrew. Arab nationalist elements could easily exploit the bill, charging bias, Gur-Aryeh last week told the Knesset Education Committee.

Acting committee chairman MK Sarah Doron (Likud-Liberal) noted that blood had been shed over language rivalries in countries like Canada and Belgium. More care and more thought were essential, Doron told Shoval and Shamir, before the Knesset passed the sort of bill they had proposed, even on the preliminary reading.

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Entebbe hostages sue 'negligent' Air France

By ABRAHAM RABINOVICH

Seventy survivors of the Entebbe hijacking in 1976 began proceedings against Air France last week in Tel Aviv District Court to seek compensation for their ordeal.

The petitioners, including relatives of the four civilians killed as a result of the incident, claim that Air France failed to use security measures that could have forestalled the hijacking. They also cite the airline's scheduling of an interim stop in Athens after the plane left Israel, despite the dangers this involved. The hijackers boarded in Athens.

The Israeli claimants, representing most of 100 Israelis held at Entebbe, had originally tried to bring their case before American courts. A spokesman for the group, Ilan Hartuv, said that the U.S. courts had declined to hear the 'Israeli' case.

A pre-trial hearing was held on Wednesday in Tel Aviv before Judge Eliahu Winograd.

Hartuv, son of Dora Bloch who was murdered by the Ugandans, will testify on December 11 before returning to Africa. He is there on a government assignment.

The actual trial is scheduled to get under way on April 8.

According to the Warsaw convention on international air traffic, suit

can be brought against an airline in the country from which a flight departed, the country of ultimate destination or the country in which the airline's home office is located.

The total of the Israeli claims amounts to several million dollars, Hartuv said, with individual claims varying according to circumstance.

One of the Americans at Entebbe, who was in the group released several days before the Israelis were rescued, received a \$17,500 settlement from Air France after he took them to court in the U.S., Hartuv said.

Two Israelis were killed during the rescue and a third, severely wounded, died a few days later in a Nairobi hospital. Mrs. Bloch, 76, was dragged from the Ugandan hospital where she had been taken for treatment of illness, and was murdered after the raid. Several other Israelis were wounded during the rescue.

The Air France plane had left Ben-Gurion Airport on June 27, 1976 for Paris. There were 245 passengers aboard when it took off from the stopover in Athens, among them the Arab and German hijackers.

On July 4, Israeli commandos stormed the airport at Entebbe and rescued the hijack victims. Sgan-Eluf Yonatan Netanyahu was killed during the raid.

New law guarantees an income

The government's Guaranteed Income Bill was passed into law last week by a vote of 39-0.

The Guaranteed Income Law recognizes two categories of persons eligible for benefits:

- Persons who need temporary assistance because they are expected to return to work shortly; these will be entitled to a monthly benefit ranging from 20 per cent of the average wage in the economy for a single person to 40 per cent for a couple with two or more children;
- Persons who need permanent assistance; their monthly benefit will range from 25 per cent of the

average wage for an individual to 47.5 per cent of the wage for a widow or a couple with two or more children.

The National Insurance Institute will be responsible for carrying out the law, rather than a number of other governmental bodies.

This change, he said, would enable the NII to make maximum use of its experience in paying benefits to hundreds of thousands of elderly persons, dependent survivors, invalids, and widows.

(Editorial comment on page 22)



Gad Greiver, his wife Matilda, and four of their six children, at last week's demonstration at the Knesset to protest against the order to demolish their house in Gadera, built illegally on state land. (Zoom 77)

Israel's most controversial house

Jerusalem Post Staff

The stage was set last week for the demolition of the "Greiver House," a home which had become a public issue in Israel.

The luxurious villa was built seven years ago by Gad Greiver, of Gadera, on state lands. Since permission had not been obtained from the Israel Lands Administration for erection of the structure, the villa was branded "illegal" by the courts and a demolition order requested by the Lands Administration was granted by the Tel Aviv District Court. The demolition order was ignored for years.

For his part, Gad Greiver — backed up by hundreds of his neighbors in Gadera — claimed the legal proceedings against him and his house were a farce. He said "thousands" of illegally built houses are standing throughout the country and no action has been

taken against those who had built them.

Early last week, Attorney-General Yitzhak Zamir decided to give Greiver until the end of the week to dismantle his 10-room villa, and promised that the ILA, which owns the land, will find Greiver an alternative lot.

But Greiver refused the offer. Instead, he packed his belongings and moved — with his wife and six children — out of their 10-room villa, into a three-room flat in an old building in town.

On Wednesday, the Greivers travelled to Jerusalem with 150 neighbours to demonstrate outside the Knesset.

He also went to Prime Minister Menachem Begin's office, where he handed over the keys to his house to the guard, asking that they be given to Begin.

Meanwhile, the police and the

ILA continue to plan a demolition operation. If Greiver does not — as now appears obvious — demolish the house himself, 1,500 policemen and border patrolmen, equipped with tractors, heavy equipment, accompanied by a guard force and a police helicopter, will move in to demolish the villa.

"We cannot have one law for the strong and another law for the weak," Zamir told reporters in Jerusalem. "If we spare the Greiver house, it will mean that the state's law is ineffective."

Zamir explained that Greiver knowingly built his house on state land intended only for agriculture. If the house is not demolished, the whole area surrounding it will be built up in a short while, the attorney-general said. He maintained that local circles supporting Greiver consist of people who also want to build on their land.

Financial crisis at Haifa University

By MARY HIRSCHFELD/Jerusalem Post Reporter

TICKING OFF the financial problems of Haifa University left its board of governors with very full hands and heavy hearts when they held their ninth annual meeting earlier this month.

During the past year faculty members had to be dismissed and promotions delayed. Essential services could not be expanded as desired, and new development projects could not be implemented. And the university, the country's smallest in size, must raise at least \$30m. just to balance its budget.

Like most of Israel's institutions of higher learning, Haifa University leans heavily on donations, but there have never been enough of these. "Maybe Haifa U. does not look that glamorous..." was the tired comment of Gershon Avner, Haifa U's disillusioned president, who has just announced he won't accept another term in office.

It has been said that Avner was "forced" into this decision by a group of Senate members and faculty, bitterly disappointed with his "inability" to get the university closer to potential donors' hearts and cheque books. Avner vehemently denies this and so does the University rector, Prof. Ozer Schild.

"I have simply grown tired of being a watchman for Zionism and moral values at a time when people

don't seem to care," Avner said at the first session of the board of governors meeting.

ANOTHER thorn in Avner's side has been the increasingly tense relations between radical Arab and Jewish student groups on campus. Demonstrations and fist-fights marked the past school year when the police were often called in. Practically not a week passed without a rally of some sort on campus. The forthcoming elections for the Students Union are bound to see a repeat of this scene.

The university has refused to recognize any group other than the Students Union as officially representing students. Arab students formed their own committee a few years ago and are now pushing hard for the right to organize parties, conferences or "social events." The university administration gave in once and agreed to let them use an auditorium for a public debate, but the Students Union opposed such a "concession." The union went to court and was granted a temporary injunction forbidding any activity on campus not sponsored by it.

THEN THERE is the matter of efficiency. The board of governors advisory committee on administrative affairs, after exten-

sive study of the university's efficiency, made "extremely important" recommendations regarding "urgent implementation." Chances are they will never become more than words on a piece of paper, university officials say, at least for the near future.

The university's budget for 1980-81 is \$1804.25m., barely enough for maintaining things as they are. Requests for financial help from the Council for Higher Education and from abroad have had no reply.

RECTOR Ozer Schild says that Haifa University's faculty is today 20 per cent smaller than it was seven years ago. The number of students decreased slightly this year, and about 15 staffers were dismissed. For saving's sake, the university is considering the implementation of a five-day week, installation of solar heaters on campus and in dormitories and curbing of expenses everywhere, from postal services to use of photocopying machines.

As northern Israel's university with the largest enrolment of Arab students, Haifa University has a unique responsibility which must be upheld despite all difficulties," the board of governors agreed. By what means, they could not specify.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

A victory for the law

"WE CANNOT have one law for the powerful and another law for the weak. If we spare the Greiver house, it will mean that the law of the land is impotent when it comes to the powerful."

Thus Attorney-General Yitzhak Zamir, early last week. The words deserve to be engraved in gold: they sum up, neatly and pithily, the real issue involved in the Greiver house controversy. They are a ringing reaffirmation of the rule of law, and should be enough to strike dumb the strident chorus of romantics and hypocrites enlisted in preventing the demolition of that offending villa in Gadera.

The facts of Greiver's case almost speak for themselves. A rich, wilful and brazen man built himself, seven years ago, an urban villa without the necessary permit from the Israel Lands Administration, the owner of the farm land on which it was located. He ignored repeated orders for the demolition of the house by the Lands Administration, a district court, and finally even the Supreme Court, which found the issue too clear-cut to warrant a substantive probe.

Having lost the battle of the courtroom that man, Gad Greiver, went on to challenge the law through sheer, insolent defiance.

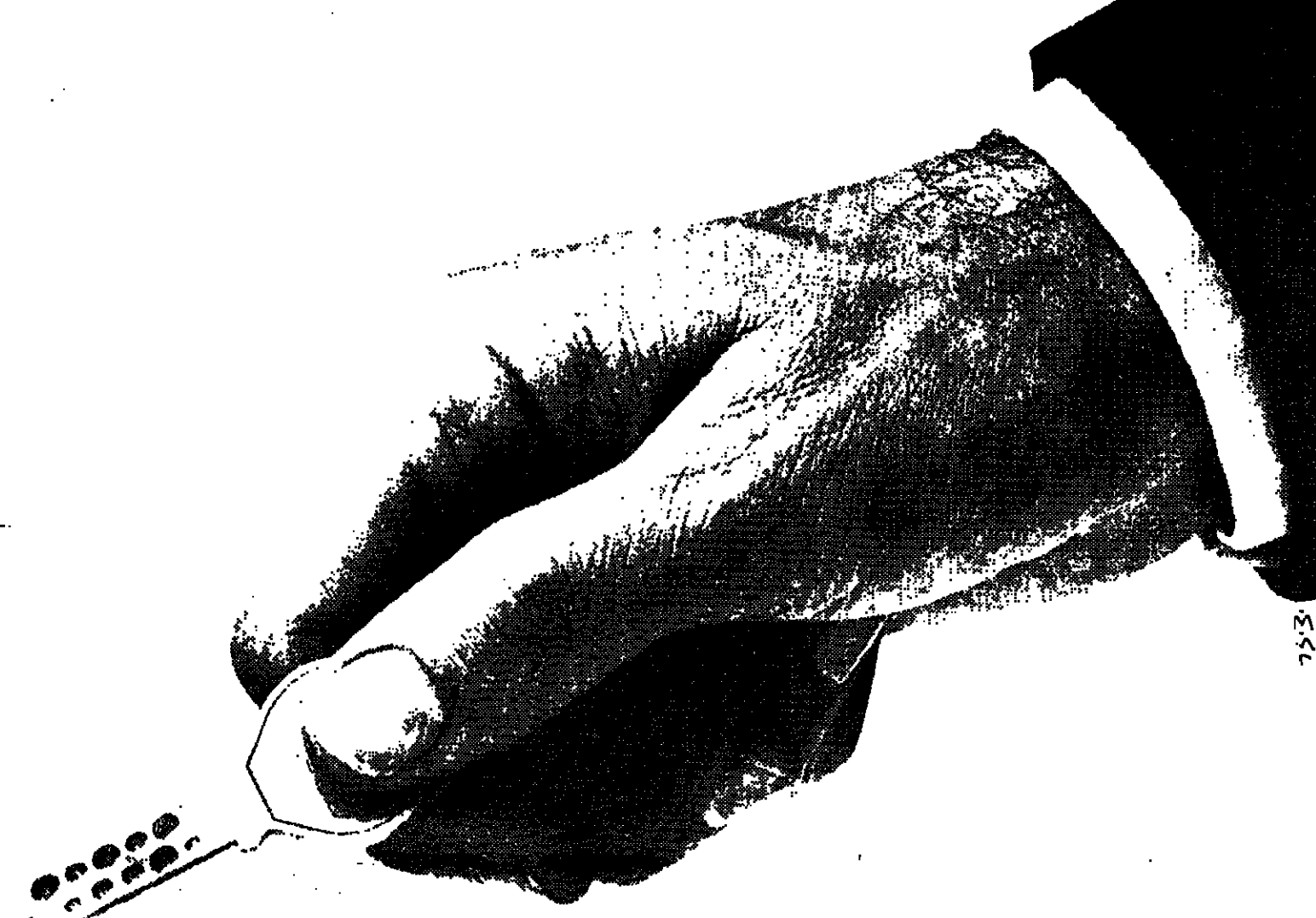
The real purpose of dismantling the Greiver house now will not be to punish Mr. Greiver, but to show that crime does not pay.

It is distressing to learn that the police feel they will need no less than 1,500 of their men to protect the demolition squads when they arrive on the scene in Gadera. This may not have been necessary if the political community, both of the right and left, had not maintained a strange, Olympian silence in the face of the raging pro-Greiver campaign. But at least the law will be defended.

Needless to say, this one act of law enforcement will not make all Israelis (and all Israel government agencies) faithfully observe the law. Suffice it if it only prevents the rule of law from collapsing.

(Rewards of violence, page 14)

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Rioters are fired on 'only as last resort'

Post Knesset Reporter

Major General Danny Matt, coordinator of operations in the administered areas, said last week that while opening fire against demonstrators "is our last resort," IDF soldiers are empowered to fire when their lives are threatened.

Matt was speaking at a session of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee on the situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"Normally," Matt said, "the last thing we want is for Israel Defense Force soldiers to open fire on civilians. But sometimes Arab demonstrators who throw stones and roll burning tires can put soldiers into critical situations."

He said that Israeli TV sometimes gave a distorted picture of incidents in the areas. In its coverage of the shooting in Ramallah, he said, Israeli TV used a foreign television report where film of soldiers firing down from a roof was spliced to film of students lying wounded on the ground. Twenty minutes had elapsed between the two incidents, and they took place in different localities, Matt said. In fact the students were shot by soldiers on the ground whom they were stoning, he said.

Matt sharply rebutted criticism by some committee members who alleged the army had introduced strong-arm policies in the areas under

der the Likud government. He said that only four residents have been deported since 1977 (when the Likud came to power) as opposed to dozens in previous years. Hundreds of houses had been blown up by the army under the Alignment government, but only a handful since 1977, he added.

In the discussion, Meir Talmi (Alignment-Mapam) said he had a strong impression that the soldiers who shot at the student demonstration in Ramallah had not adhered to the standing regulations on opening fire against civilians.

Yosef Nard (Alignment-Labour) said that no matter whether the Alignment government or the Likud government had decided on a strong-arm policy, the result was the same, and the strong-arm policy was bankrupt.

Amnon Rubinstein (Shinui) said that governments in other countries don't usually order their soldiers to shoot at rioters. He said the foreign correspondents here could see the picture clearly, and were able to compare developments with what they had seen elsewhere. "The resultant damage is huge," Rubinstein said.

Amnon Linn (Likud-La'am) said it was better to deport inciters than to fire at them.

Haim Druckman (NRP) said the military government must follow a policy of appropriate response tailored to every case of unrest. When the incitement takes the form of words, and words alone, there should also be a response, Druckman said.

At the Broadcasting Authority board of directors meeting last week, director-general Yosef Lapid explained that the Ramallah newsfilm referred to by Matt had been obtained by satellite from Visnews, a foreign company, because Israeli film teams had not been allowed into the area. Lapid added that although the Visnews film was not ideal, it was proper for Israeli TV to screen it, because it was a newsworthy event.



Maj-Gen. Matt

Dayan attacked for GI remark

NEW YORK (AP). — Saying that former defense minister Moshe Dayan does not speak for the government or the people of Israel, the American Jewish Congress has criticized him for his statement about "blacks with low intelligence" in the U.S. armed forces.

Dayan made the remarks in an interview for Israeli Television on November 14. Dayan said the quality of U.S. armed forces was low and as a result hampered efforts to improve American military capability in the Middle East.

Dayan was quoted last week as saying that he stood by his remark. Yediot Aharonot quoted Dayan as saying that "What I said, I said."

Can't I say what I think? Whoever thinks differently is welcome to speak out."

"We emphatically reject Mr. Dayan's remarks," Henry Siegman, executive director of the U.S. Jewish organization said. "We urge him to repudiate his thoughtless and mean-spirited statement."

Dayan was also criticized by the civil rights leader Jesse Jackson, who sent Dayan a telegram demanding an apology.

"If these quotes are accurate," Jackson said in the telegram, "black Americans consider such comments unkind, insensitive and an insult."

Jewish couple slain in Paris office

PARIS. — French police last week were still seeking a gunman, described by witnesses as a man of Arab appearance about 30 years old, who fatally shot a Jewish couple in the travel agency they operated.

Irving Duck, his wife Michelle and a secretary were followed into the International Travel office near the Opera House on Tuesday by a man who took a gun out of his raincoat, sprayed the room with bullets and walked away.

Yair Carmon, vice president of VIP travel agency in Tel Aviv, said that Irving Duck may have been put on the PLO hit list because of the tours he promoted for VIP and

the Egyptian firm Emeco in his Paris office.

He said that two years ago the VIP-Emeco representative in Paris had been warned by the PLO that because of his activities in Israeli-Egyptian travel he was a target for assassination.

Witnesses described the assailant as young, with a bushy black mustache. His shots killed Michelle Duck instantly and wounded her husband in the head. He died in hospital the next day.

One secretary, Martine, was wounded. A clerk and another secretary, Mira Eytan, wife of an Israeli radio reporter, remained unhurt and called an ambulance, which arrived 25 minutes later.

Rabin sues Paris paper for libel

By JOSHUA BRILLIANT
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — Former prime minister Yitzhak Rabin on Friday filed a \$2.5m. libel suit against the French weekly L'Espresso which "reported" that Bezalel Mizrahi, the controversial business figure, had paid the IL250,000 fine imposed on Rabin's wife Lea in 1977 for maintaining an illegal bank account in the U.S. L'Espresso said supporters of Shimon Peres, Rabin's rival for leadership of the Labour Party, have the cancelled cheque.

The suit was filed at district court here, following consultations Rabin's lawyer Yitzhak Morits had with colleagues familiar with the French code. Morits was told that the French court would probably accept the Israeli ruling if the magazine is given a fair chance at defending itself in the suit and if the verdict does not contravene French law.

Labour Party chairman Shimon Peres, has signed an af-

fidavit denying key elements in the L'Espresso report.

In the affidavit, Peres said: "I do not have, and never had, a IL250,000 cheque as detailed in the report, and I do not know of its existence. I do not know of anybody who found the stated cheque nor traces of (such) payment in Bezalel Mizrahi's books."

Peres said he had not given L'Espresso the report. No one had done so on his behalf, and no one on the magazine's staff had called him or any of his aides to verify the report.

In an address Thursday to Labour's Central Committee, Peres appealed for party unity. "Let's set aside differences and rivalries," he said.

But Rabin's camp, which suffered a setback in last week's elections to the party convention, was bitter over alleged irregularities in the voting.

Last week, Rabin met with the Israel Newspaper Editors Committee to display all the relevant documents relating to the payment

of the fine. The documents include a cheque to the Tel Aviv court signed by Lea Rabin for the sum of IL250,000, dated May 31, 1977, and the signed receipt. He also made available all his bank statements from April to October 1977, covering the period when he paid the fine and received the moneys that enabled him to do so.

Rabin told the editors that he received a IL70,000 loan from his wife's cousin, Uri Kellner, and a \$10,000 loan from a personal friend, Norman Bernstein in the U.S., to enable him to pay the fine.

He received permission from the Treasury for receipt and repayment in foreign currency of the dollar loan Rabin said.

"I am ashamed to have to provide all these details and documents," Rabin said. The burden of proof, he said, should be on L'Espresso to show evidence for its "malicious lie."

Bezalel Mizrahi last year won a libel suit against a Hebrew newspaper which had described him as a leader of organized crime here.



Prime Minister Menachem Begin with a 10-gallon hat presented to him by a U.S. congressional delegation from Texas and Oklahoma. Begin refused to don the hat for the photographer. (Elhazar-Scoop 80)

Begin praises envoy Evron

Post Knesset Reporter

Prime Minister Menachem Begin vigorously defended Israel's ambassador to the U.S. during an appearance last week before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

In a report on his private visit to the U.S., the premier again denied that there had been an attempt to arrange a meeting for him with President-elect Ronald Reagan. He did not feel slighted by Reagan's refusal to meet him, Begin continued.

With Reagan on the West Coast and he staying on the East Coast, a visit would have created technical difficulties anyway, Begin maintained. There was no reason why a meeting could not wait until after Reagan enters the White House.

In his vigorous defence of Ambassador Ephraim Evron, the prime minister rejected the criticism that Likud members Yosef Rom and Michael Dekel directed at the diplomat. The two complained that Evron had failed in his duty by not having established contacts earlier with the Reagan team. They charged that he had exceeded his authority in moving too

close to President Carter's camp. But Begin called Evron "a fine ambassador" and a man who "does a very good job." The best proof of Evron's close ties with the Reagan camp, argued Begin, was the fact that Reagan's senior aide, Richard Allen, had telephoned the ambassador to ask Israel not to take offence when Reagan agreed to meet with the West German Chancellor, Helmut Schmidt.

Begin revealed that President Jimmy Carter had proposed a four-way summit between himself, Reagan, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, and Begin. However, when Reagan's aides did not favour the idea, administration officials said there was no point in having a summit with only Carter, Sadat, and Begin, the premier said.

The premier reported that the conference of Jewish organizations that he attended in Detroit had refused to approve any limitations on American Jewish aid to Soviet Jewish drop-outs.

Avraham Kutz (Likud-Liberal) said Israel had done well not to pressure American Jewry on the drop-out issue, because no pressure would avail.

Stir over local Arab meeting

Jerusalem Post Staff

HAIFA. — Organizers of the national conference of Israeli Arabs due to take place in Nazareth next Saturday have condemned what they called the government's falsification of the meeting's intentions and threats to prevent it from taking place.

In a statement published here last week, the organizers, including Rakah (New Communist) leaders and many independent Arab intellectuals and politicians, criticized Premier Menachem Begin for telling members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that the government views the planned conference "with concern."

"This statement is a clear violation of democracy and an attempt to restrict the political freedom of Israeli Arabs," they stated. Senior officials said last week that no final decision has yet been made whether to allow or ban the meeting. The premier's adviser on Arab affairs, Binyamin Gur Arye, said only that "all various possibilities are being studied."

Officials said that the final decision would be taken by Begin in his capacity as minister of defence. "The government knows of the links between some of the organizers and the PLO," one of

ficial asserted. Government representatives have been urging Arab religious leaders and local council chairmen to boycott the conference. Unofficially, it was reported, many agreed to do so if enough others would as well.

Members of Likud MK Amnon Linn's Jewish-Arab Association plan to distribute leaflets in Galilee villages calling for a boycott of the meeting, which it says "could cause irreparable damage to relations between Jewish and Arabs in Israel."

Called the June 6 Document, the paper endorses a settlement to the Middle East conflict involving the establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, alongside Israel, and while it affirms the "Palestinian national identity" of Israeli Arabs, it calls their struggle one for equal rights "as a national minority" and rejects defining the PLO as their representative.

At a preparatory meeting attended by several hundred people in Jerusalem last week, Emil Touma of Rakah, Aluf (res.) Mattityahu Peled of the leftist Sheli party and other speakers urged "democratic Jews" to attend the Nazareth conference in solidarity and to forestall government threats to prevent it.

Army budget request delayed

By SHLOMO MAOZ
Post Economic Reporter

A special ministerial committee in effect rejected last week the Defence Ministry's request for a \$1.5 billion addition to this year's budget, by postponing further discussion of the issue for two weeks until next year's budget is worked out.

The ministry argued that the \$1.5b. is necessary to cover the increased cost of items approved for the final third of the fiscal year, and that the Treasury had agreed to compensate the ministry for price rises.

A senior Treasury source said Wednesday that the Defence Ministry claim for compensation was understandable, since the "package" of defence expenses was higher than the "packages" for

other ministries. Nevertheless, he added, this year's budget was closed and the Treasury had no intention bringing another revised State Budget to the Knesset.

The committee meeting was chaired by Prime Minister Menachem Begin, who is also serving as Defence Minister. He accepted the Treasury's position that the budget was not to be increased. Senior military officers last week expressed their displeasure with the government's decision.

One officer said that it was this type of "foot-dragging" by the government, aimed at avoiding problems rather than confronting them, which is responsible for the current situation and for much of the mistrust which now exists between the Treasury and the Defence Ministry. Finance Minister Yigael Hurvitz

plans to meet with Begin in two weeks to decide on next year's budget.

In effect, it will be Prime Minister Menachem Begin who will have to choose during the next few weeks between a generous election-year budget and the austere budget advocated by Hurvitz, who has said he will resign unless his budget is accepted.

Hurvitz last week gave in to pressure from his cabinet colleagues and agreed to defer tabling the 1981/82 budget until the full cabinet has had a chance to discuss it. But the decision on whether or not the ministers' demands for larger budgets will be met rests with the prime minister. Hurvitz has said he refuses to make any concessions in his budget to the coming election year.

Immigration official backed

Jerusalem Post Correspondent and Staff

NEW YORK. — A group of Jewish Agency immigration emissaries in North America threatened last week to resign collectively if Aliya Centre head Aharon Kfir is removed from his position. Last week, members of the American section of the World Zionist Organisation (of which the Jewish Agency is a component), executive demanded his dismissal.

Rafi Ben-Hur, a spokesman for the 30 Aliya emissaries in North America, told The Jerusalem Post that they support Kfir's criticism of the American Zionist leadership, which led to the ouster demand.

The WZO Executive in Jerusalem will probably discuss the demand to recall Kfir at its meeting this week. American section chairman

Charlotte Jacobson demanded the recall in a telegram last week to WZO chairman Aryeh Dulkis. Jacobson was incensed because Kfir sent a letter criticizing her and the American section to Aliya department chairman Raphael Kollowitz last July.

In the letter, Kfir called the American section "a useless and inefficient organization that costs the Jewish people many millions of dollars and acts as a brake and barrier to orderly operations of the WZO in the U.S."

Kfir added that it was "incredible that professional Zionists decorate themselves with Zionist feathers while at the same time they have no personal commitment to settle in Israel."

The Aliya Centre director is due to finish his two-year term next summer.

No cheap way to compensate settlers'

By ASHER WALLFISH
Post Knesset Reporter

Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon said last week that the transfer of the Sinai settlers from their present locations to new homes and farms on an organized basis would have cost the same as the \$1.1 billion which the government envisages as the cost of compensating the settlers on an individual basis.

The settlers are the families who will have to leave the newly developed seaside town of Yamit, and other communities in the Rafia Approaches of Northern Sinai within two years. The area is due to be evacuated by Israelis, and handed over to Egypt under terms of the peace treaty.

However, Sharon said, the settlers turned down an offer to be moved en bloc to the Besor region in southern Israel.

He said they demanded to be moved to areas like Nitzan, Zikhm and Michmoret, where there was a great shortage of free land.

The minister told the Likud Knesset faction: "The settlers are not peace hostages, and not peace profiteers either. A family getting compensation and buying a house and farm on an existing cooperative settlement will have to invest all its compensation, and still not manage to attain the same conditions or the same income."

Sharon said that families from Moshav Ugda in Sinai, planning to move to Moshav Lachish near Kiryat Gat, would have to pay as much as \$1.5m. to \$1.8m. for their new homes and farms, which would be of a lower standard.

Meir Ben-Meir, the director-general of the Agriculture Ministry, said the compensation for the Sinai settlers was not only calculated for their house and farm, but also for their investments, their expected loss of income in 1981-82, and their "distress" over relocation.

Ben-Meir said that the settlers would get a smaller net sum than their compensation figure because their debts would first be deducted.

The cabinet last week appointed Agriculture Minister Sharon as chairman of the cabinet committee that will handle the compensation, settlers' arrangements. The appointment came after Finance Minister Yigael Hurvitz turned down the job.

WIZO chooses leaders

TEL AVIV. — Raya Jaglom was unanimously re-elected president of World WIZO last week, at the closing session of the organization's 18th conference. The conference also re-elected Ruth Isaacson as chairman of the World WIZO.

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COMMENTARY

ONE HEARS so many disingenuous arguments about the Shimon Peres — Yitzhak Rabin feud that it is difficult to define exactly what the differences are between the two rival claimants to the Labour Party throne.

Ideologically, there is little to separate the two. And this is a significant point in Peres's favour: because Peres is the incumbent, the burden of proof that there is sufficient difference between the candidates to warrant the ugliness of a major party fight rests on the Rabin crowd.

And so, much of the political discourse in the Labour Party is taken up with alternately justifying and denying the existence of important dissimilarities between the two champions.

In 1977, Peres, then minister of defence, mounted an almost successful campaign to gain the party leadership. Peres failed to convince the delegates that he represented sufficient change in policy to justify his challenge to Rabin's leadership.

Thus, it ill-befooves Peres now to deny Rabin the rights he so lavishly allowed himself. At the same time, it ill-suits Rabin to exercise a right he so articulately sought to prevent Peres from exercising four years ago.

RABIN'S supporters today argue that Peres waged political war against their candidate during the entire three-and-a-half years of the ill-starred Labour regime under Rabin's premiership. Retaliation is their recurring theme. They point to the Kadum crisis when, they say, Peres, as minister of defence, enabled Gush Emunim to mount their illegal settlement attempt which shook the Labour government to its core. They conveniently ignore Yigal Alon's sponsorship some time before of the Gush group which founded Kiryat Arba.

The intra-cabinet squabbling in Rabin's day, which pales by comparison with the verbal slaughterhouse in the Begin government, seemed awful at the time.

Both men backed away at each other. There was the memorable TV documentary about the Entebbe raid in which Rabin stridently claimed (to an American audience) that the defence minister (Peres) had failed to consult the chief of staff about a military option — a charge repeated in Rabin's memoirs, but one which then-chief of staff Motta Gur denies. And so on.

But one must remember that the public and interperate attacks were part of a campaign of mutual recrimination.

PERES USED TO be a patron of what he called functional compromise on the West Bank. He opposed the territorial compromise idea favoured by Alon and a party majority. The concept of functional compromise, which was always fuzzy, migrated with Moshe Dayan to Menachem Begin's government, united with the Greater Israel idea and conceived the Autonomy Plan. Peres has since backed away from his old love and is now a whole-hearted

The feud in Labour

The fight between Shimon Peres and Yitzhak Rabin for the leadership of the opposition Labour Party has taken on increasing significance with the possibility of the party gaining power at the next elections. The two men have been at loggerheads for several years. But to what extent are the differences political, and to what degree personal? The question is considered in the extracts here from an article by DAVID TWERSKY.

proponent of the territorial compromise idea which was written into the Labour Party platform in 1977.

How to explain Peres's shift? The opposition-to-Peres people call him an opportunist. He blows with the wind, they say. They love to catch Peres contradicting himself and constantly drag out old interviews and press clippings. Only the Allon Plan, they say, allows for a real possibility of peace. Neither the hawks nor the doves really believe in peace: "all" and "nothing" are really two sides of the same bankrupt coin.

Unfortunately, Rabin has recently endorsed his own version of the functional compromise. Speaking at Bar-Ilan University, Rabin envisioned Jordanian management of West Bank affairs, with Israeli administration of West Bank security. Peres, meanwhile, hotly defends relinquishing control of the heavily populated heartland of the West Bank while retaining the Jordan Rift area—in other words, the Allon Plan. Nevertheless, the crux of the opposition to Peres seems to rest on the assumption that he will not be sufficiently resolute in standing up to the world, especially to Washington, for the Jordan Rift-Dead Sea area.

BUT THE PLOT grows curiously and curiously. Peres, we learn, is a leading supporter of the nuclear option as a defence strategy for Israel. Rabin and Alon were always backers of the conventional strategy. Those who think nuclear can be more generous in relinquishing territory, the Rabin people say, ignoring the example of nuclear physicist and Tehiya leader Yuval Ne'eman.

Those who reject the nuclear option, for whatever reason, must think in terms of mountains and valleys, high ground and important pieces of turf, rivers and natural defence boundaries.

How the historical case against the nuclear option squares with contemporary realities like the Iraqi, Libyan, Pakistani and Algerian strides towards developing a "Moslem bomb," is a valid question. Peres put it to several opponents of the bomb and they had to agree that Israel could not allow itself to fall behind in this area. They still maintained, however, that they opposed receiving certain kinds of radioactive material and that they were in favour of Israel signing the non-proliferation treaty, a suggestion Peres could not accept because it would be much easier for the international agencies to police Israel's reactors than those of its enemies.

Peres is also accused of having been cool to socialism and to the working class. The Rabin



Peres...the chairman



Rabin...the challenger

camp sees itself as a kind of Tribune on social and economic issues, taking its cue from the Tony Benn group in the British Labour Party. Yet Peres sounds like a left-wing populist, and his campaign speeches so far can hardly have reassured the wealthier classes.

When asked how their economic policies would differ from those of a Peres-led government, Rabin's followers speak of Peres's willingness to use unemployment as an anti-inflationary device (anathema to socialists); casting about for other specifics, they claim to represent the real socialist wing of the party.

Peres denies that he would encourage unemployment, under any circumstances. In any event, the real struggle over the economic policy of the next Labour government is between Ya'acov Levinson (for the left, such as it is) and Gad Ya'aobi (for the right). Neither of the two supports Rabin.

PERES HAS grouped around him many of the leading Labour Party doves, and some of the leading hawks, such as they are. Yossi Sarid and Abba Eban support his candidacy, and did so in 1977; Tel Aviv party boss Eliyahu Spisler and moshav movement MK Amos Hadar, both voracious hawks in the Labour Party fashion, support his candidacy, as they did in 1977. To this support Peres now adds

votes from those who don't want to rock the boat and who voted, by the same logic, for incumbent Rabin in '77.

The Rabin people spend their polemical capital emphasizing the differences they see between the candidates, as well as defending the record of the Rabin government. They think that Rabin has got what it takes.

Rabin, not surprisingly, agrees with his supporters. A graduate of the "anybody but Peres" school of Labour leadership, Rabin has progressed to a new view: If it has to be Peres, then only with a tested-by-fire 40 per cent minority opposition bloc, grouped around Rabin, incapable of being bought off, intimidated or (the ultimate indignity) ignored.

PART HISTORICAL grudge, part ideological cleavage, part personality conflict, part thwarted ambition, the Peres-Rabin feud is a curious beast. Peres swears that the ideological factor is negligible.

Peres is uncomfortable with the charge that he is an opportunist, that he has changed. But surely opportunism is not the only motive for change. And it is difficult to understand why change in an individual's position should be taboo in Israeli political culture. The Labour movement is a conservative church in this regard.

Human beings can grow and change, sometimes even for the better, and thereby assert their integrity.

The Rabin people attack Peres for changing only according to the prevailing political winds. Having a shallow commitment to real Labour values to begin with, they say, he can go either way.

Peres cannot admit that he has grown or changed that much. But the situation has changed. The Palestinian issue has mushroomed, OPEC has arisen, Soviet Jewish aliyah has dwindled to next to nothing and there has been a negative landslide in public and establishment opinion in the West against Israel.

Peres turns on his opponents, impugning their qualifications to attack him. "Who are they to accuse me?" he asks. "They supported the Soviet Union. They were against a rapprochement with West Germany. They opposed partition when Ben-Gurion sponsored it in 1948, only to champion the same idea 20-odd years later when one of their own called it the Allon Plan. Was I ever a Marxist-Leninist?" he asks derisively.

It is true that there is much continuity in Peres's career. On the other hand, he damages his credibility when he tries to defend all of his party's deeds, such as Labour's Knesset vote on the Jerusalem Bill. And Labour's support for the Chief Rabbinate Bill, despite Peres's

assurances to the convention of Reform rabbis in Toronto, hardly helped his case. His chief problem is how to establish that he is not merely a clever man, but a man of his word.

Those party doves who lean towards Peres take his "opportunism" as an open-minded approach to things. Everyone acknowledges that there is something in Peres, but each group sees it as something else.

THE MOST significant failure of the Rabin crowd has been their inability to convince a sufficiently wide segment of the party that the differences warrant a divisive campaign. To this they reply that, according to the opinion polls, they have convinced the rank and file. But this is a disingenuous argument. In 1977 Rabin's supporters dismissed polls in which Peres scored significantly higher than Rabin.

People do tend to trust Rabin more. "His eyes look more honest," one man said. The same people, however, do not feel that the campaign redounds to Labour's credit.

All of the show-downs thus far have given Peres a 60 per cent Central Committee edge. His candidacy was confirmed against Alon by that margin and he has recently scored similar triumphs on other issues. But the Rabin people, fired by opinion polls which consistently score Rabin as "the people's choice" against Alon's, have staked their hopes on denying the Central Committee the right to decide by moving the decision to the upcoming party convention. They argue that the newly completed membership drive which brought in over 200,000 members includes a hefty group of party newcomers — some 80,000 according to organization department head Dan Karmon. They think the new members tend to be pro-Rabin.

If those people can be brought into the decision-making process, Rabin may be able to win. This is a thin reed indeed on which to base one's hopes. The Rabin "realists," veterans of many a political war, certainly know better than to stake their party lives on such a low-odds possibility. They are probably realistically aiming for 40 per cent and the "historic" opposition minority status.

The Rabin people say that their man has backtracked from that either-me-or-him-vow. Others have said that whichever one loses the nomination should be forced out of the cabinet picture altogether, because these two would probably continue to wreck each other's achievements and Labour can not hope to provide a responsible leadership team if it is led by two squabbling kids.

But it is difficult to see how the Rabin camp could settle for anything less than a powerful cabinet position for their man. The Eternal Feud is something we are going to have to live with.

David Twersky is the editor of SHDEMOT, The Cultural Forum of the Kibbutz Movement, and is a member of the Kibbutz Gezer.

Unpredictable Ezer

The pundits are hard put to decide whether the former defence minister is a fool or a genius. *The Post's* HIRSH GOODMAN analyzes why Ezer Weizman behaves the way he does.

EZER WEIZMAN is without doubt the most mercurial politician on the Israeli scene. Four years ago, it was he who masterminded the Likud's rise to power. For the past six months, he has been doing his best to bring the party down. A veteran member of Herut, he has always associated himself ideologically with the Israeli right. Listening to him today, one would be hard put to detect differences on policy between him and the left-to-centre bloc of the Alignment.

He is a man who, as defence minister, voiced some of the harshest criticism, even by Israeli political standards, of his opposite number at the Foreign Ministry, Moshe Dayan, and now proposes that Dayan head the country's next government. He has saved the roughest edge of his tongue for eloquent barbs against Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon, and is now flirting with the prophet of a Greater Israel in a quest for common ground.

He is the man who heaped invective on Yitzhak Rabin for his performance in the Six Day War and for his weak leadership as prime minister, and now proposes including him in his independent list for the next elections.

He is the fighter pilot turned peacemaker; the peacemaker who dreams about returning to head the Israeli defence establishment. He is a bundle of contradictions, but has a clear vision of what he wants to achieve. He tends to speak without thinking, yet delivers himself of some profound statements. Some of his latest actions — notably his eye-of-election support of President Jimmy Carter — are indicative of extreme naivete, but there is no arguing that he is a shrewd, even cunning, politician. He is blessed with a warm personality that has turned anti-Israeli journalists into sympathizers and has injected the famous chemistry into personal relationships, too. But he has also succeeded in alienating many erstwhile friends and allies.

Ezer Weizman is a man whose essential character is difficult to define, but with whom it is very easy to have a symbiotic relationship. He is a gust of fresh wind on the Israeli political scene, dominated as it is by the same familiar faces mouthing the same old ideas. Whether the wind bodes well or ill remains a question that will be answered only in time.

IT TOOK COURAGE for Ezer Weizman to vote against the government last week — the same kind of courage he displayed a few months ago in resigning his cabinet position knowing that he would not bring down the government by doing so. And there was tremendous courage too, in his handling of the peace process — overcoming what appeared from the outside, to be insurmountable obstacles.

Despite the valid evaluation of his behaviour as uneven, even capricious, Weizman has shown undeviating loyalty to the ideals and aims he considers cardinal. Above all, he wants what he perceives to be best for the country, often regardless of the personal price he has to pay. He is loyal to no one person, no one party, but to his own conception of what Zionism should be, and what Israel should be. The party framework is only a conduit for achieving these goals, and if it does not fulfil his expectations, it has to be changed.



(Zoom 7)

If the person at the head of the party fails to respond to changing realities, and ceases to personify what he, Weizman, stands for, he must be replaced as well. Weizman has no Jabotinsky or Ben-Gurion to pay blind homage to. He never worshipped the ground Begin walks on, and he certainly does not stand in awe of Moshe Dayan. He is prepared only to devote his ability to whatever person, ideology and framework suits his perception, at any particular time, of where Israel should be going as a nation in this crucial period.

Weizman's three latest public statements were, in themselves, impressive. His explanation at Ben-Gurion Airport of why he supported Carter was convincing and allayed much of the hostility that had been building up against him across the political spectrum. His speech in the Knesset was good and solid and left the impression of a man convinced of the justice of his cause and ready to take bold action. His recent television interview, in which he announced his intention of setting up an independent party headed by Dayan was also impressive — until it transpired that none of the central figures he mentioned as partners in the venture had given serious consideration to his invitation, let alone accepted that invitation.

THE FUNDITS had a difficult week deciding whether Weizman was a political fool or a political genius. All they could agree on was that he was unorthodox.

Perhaps he himself does not completely understand the workings of his mind. His closest associates certainly don't, which is why they are reluctant to give him their support. They are confused and perplexed, for continued association with him could mean either a career in the inner sanctums of the government

or banishment to the political wilderness. The choice is not a simple one.

They were horrified at his telling his TV interviewer that he was breaking away from the Likud to form an independent list, but that he would be satisfied to be the country's next defence minister and not its premier.

How, they query, can a man ask people to support him and state in the next breath that he will be satisfied to be the number two? How could he publicly propose Dayan for the top slot without having obtained Dayan's consent. And how could he have been so politically innocent as to say that Rabin was a candidate for partnership in his proposed party just when Rabin was fighting like mad for control of the Labour Party? If Rabin is indeed a potential ally, why weaken him by showing him to be a possible political turncoat?

Even Ezer's friends say he will make a pact with anyone he believes could serve his cause. He tends not to look at a man's past, since he himself lives with an eye only to the future. In this context, his associates fear an alliance between him and Ariel Sharon. The agriculture minister they say, is a self-confessed opportunist who realizes that he and Weizman together could draw a sizeable segment of the Likud away from Begin, and thinks he may be useful in attracting potential supporters who fear that Weizman has swung too far to the left.

Their protests that an association with Sharon will alienate many sympathizers now and prove a political kiss of death once the elections are over has had little or no effect on Weizman, who refuses to give a promise that he will drop the idea.

Weizman's friends have followed him from one political mistake to the next, often wringing their hands in despair, but hanging on with their fingernails to a dream they believe may still come true: a responsible, mature and convincing Ezer Weizman at the head of a massive centrist bloc that would offer a viable alternative to the out-of-date policies of Israel's major parties.

WEIZMAN HAS, to all intents and purposes, launched his campaign. The audience he addresses is "the other Israel," though he himself typifies the Zionist establishment. Is he courting the development towns and the slums out of expediency, or does he genuinely feel that their collective voice has been neglected? Are they election fodder, to be discarded after the ballot, or does he propose himself for defence minister so that he can fight for their cause?

His associates cannot answer these questions. They can only reflect on Weizman's peculiar style and underline his genuine sincerity. He probably has not thought about the inherent contradictions, they say, because in his mind there are no contradictions. He has a restless nature and a passion for basic changes. Contradictions and prudent politics are for the meek, for the nit-pickers and the doubters. He is the great visionary.

It is a pity that seeds he has sown in the forest of Israeli politics have been broadcast so haphazardly that they are casting a shadow on his integrity. And one doubts whether mercury is the best nutrient for a fruitful political future.

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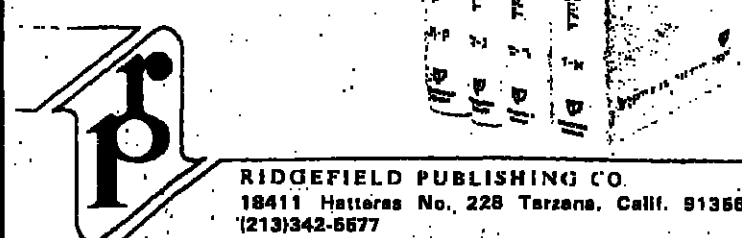
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It's great to have a friend meet you at the airport ...

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HANNA BAVLI, the grande dame of manners and polite behaviour was scheduled to lecture in Ma'aleh Ephraim, the spanking new urban centre of the Jordan Rift Valley — the Bik'a — and the ladies were all a-twitter.

"Yoske couldn't care less, but I'm just dying to hear her. Just think, I had to move to Ma'aleh Ephraim to get to hear Hanna Bavli on the rules of etiquette," one Rift Valley matron called across the street to an unseen friend who was also getting herself ready for the major event of the week on the barren eastern slopes of the Samaria massif.

I last visited the Bik'a for an intensive study tour four years ago. In some respects not much has altered. But a Ma'aleh Ephraim that plays host to a Hanna Bavli is obviously one of the more obvious changes.

The other major change is the army. It is omnipresent. Tank battalions and other military installations which were previously spread thin across the Sinai desert, scores of times as large as the Bik'a and its slopes, are now being packed into the smaller area, one of the last under Israeli control which can provide even a minimum of the free-fire zones essential for army training.

The presence of the army has led to the rapid completion and tarring of the Allon Plan road, which forms the western boundary of the area, almost devoid of Arab population, which the late Yigal Allon conceived as that part of the West Bank that would remain in Israel's hands as part of a peace settlement with Jordan. To the north, the perimeter road from Bekeot to the Rift Valley road is also being completed in a hurry by clusters of gargantuan earth-moving machines.

To travel through the Bik'a these days is also to be accompanied from early morning to sundown by the whine and contrails of high-flying jet fighters.

Other changes have been less dramatic. Quite a number of settlers in the 17 settlements in the valley, moved out as a result of the Camp David agreements and the decision to pull out of the Rafiah Salient. They feared a similar fate on the West Bank. This trend has been reversed in the past year. But the total Israeli population is about what it was four years ago: something under 2,000.

THE LARGE valley in the vicinity of Phasael, the most successful of the region's moshavim (cooperative settlements) is noticeably greener. The houses in all the settlements are more solid and the lawns and gardens more manicured. That is so even in the settlements which are suffering most from the get-rich-quick agricultural planning, like those made by the Rafiah moshavim.

Population figures for the few Arab settlements in the Rift — Anja oases, and the Beduin villages in Wadi Far'a — were not readily available for comparison, but it is quite certain that they number more than 2,000.

All settlements are now linked to the national electricity grid, which was not the case four years ago; reception of

Israel television, which was high impossible then, is now satisfactory except when military communications interfere with the TV waves.

And Israel Nedivi, the chairman of the Bik'al Hayarden Regional Council is new, as is the council itself.

"The Camp David trauma is a thing of the past," Nedivi told us in his prefab office alongside the Bik'a Brigade memorial. "People in the Bik'a are aware that the same thing that happened to the settlers of Rafiah could happen to them too. But everyone seems to be suppressing that knowledge in the belief that it will not happen when the crunch comes."

Nedivi admits regretfully that the Bik'a settlers have been markedly less political in pressing the case for a clear decision on including their region in Israel than have the settlers of either Rafiah or the Golan regarding their own claims.

"There are several reasons for this. First of all, the Bik'a settlements represent a broad spectrum of virtually all the country except Mapam's Kibbutz Artzi. While this is good in many ways, it has also meant that it has been that much more difficult to get together on a programme of political action."

"Secondly, there are relatively few kibbutzim in the region, and it is generally they who form the spearhead of any political action. Most of our people are hard-working moshavim who are up to their necks trying to make their small farms pay."

"Thirdly, there is the problem of what to fight for and what to fight against. What we are being threatened with is Begin's autonomy plan, which no one can make head or tail of. So, no one has tabled a Bik'a Bill in the Knesset along the lines of the Jerusalem Law or the Golan Bill."

NEDIVI, who is a member of the National Religious Party's moshav Meholah, says that he personally thinks that the fate of the Bik'a settlements is inextricably linked with the Gush Emunim settlements in the heart of Judea and Samaria. "But most people down here believe there is a difference and insist on accentuating it. All of this has made it difficult to mount a concerted political campaign. In my opinion, we're not doing as much as we should be doing to line up political backing for the Bik'a in the parties and among the public." But the three kibbutzim in the region have just taken a step in that direction.

Last month, an emergency meeting was convened at Kibbutz Gilgal at which the members called upon the Labour Party and the United Kibbutz Movement, to which all three belong, to press for a clear stand on "no retreat from security areas and on Israel's status in the security and settlement areas of the Bik'a, Gush Etzion and the Judean Desert."

They want it specified that "these areas shall remain under full Israeli control in all circumstances — regardless of whether the autonomy plan is actuated or not — and will be included within Israel in an even-



Roots in arid soil

The Bik'a, the arid strip alongside the Jordan border, has been transformed by 17 settlements since it was captured by Israel in the Six-Day War in 1967. The Post's YOSEF GOELL toured the rugged area, where development goes on despite the feeling of some settlers that they might have to leave in terms of a peace treaty.

tual peace treaty with Jordan."

Avner Karmon, Gilgal's young building coordinator, told us that representatives of the three kibbutzim and of others of like mind in neighbouring regions have already met with Israel Galili the chairman of the Labour Party's platform committee, with the aim of getting an appropriate resolution presented at the forthcoming party convention.

GILGAL is one of the places that has changed markedly, and for the better, since our last visit. At that time it was populated by a motley crowd of youngsters from an assortment of older kibbutzim and from youth movement gar-

(settlement nuclei). All of them obviously transients, none of them remain in the seven-year-old kibbutz. Gilgal today has 50 members, 35 candidates and 40 temporary inhabitants. The most important indicators of stability are the 22 couples and the eight children.

Most of the members are sabras; some of them, like Karmon, are ex-members of other kibbutzim, some are of youth movement groups. There are also close to 20 members and candidates from the French Dror movement.

Relations between the sabras and the French have not been too smooth, Karmon admitted, laying a good part of the blame on the former. "They are generally starry-

eyed idealists and are somewhat disappointed by the latter-day kibbutz realities, which fall short of their pristine concepts of socialist egalitarianism."

But he is hopeful that things will work out between the two groups.

A non-sabra, non-French entity we met cleaning the kibbutz clubroom was Amy who hails — improbably — from Kokomo, Indiana. She says she is extremely happy in Gilgal, to which she came via Kibbutz Kfar Blum, where she had been a volunteer.

The situation at Gilgal today is a far cry from the youth transit camp it was four years ago. The two major problems outlined by Karmon are in themselves testimony to its stability. They are the need to find a suitable industrial enterprise to supplement income from the farm branches and provide work for 15-20 members, and funds to make up for the severe cuts that have held up building for the past two years.

He has no doubts that these cuts were an expression of government policy. "The Housing Ministry, for example, invested IL470m. for housing in the Gush Emunim settlements in Samaria last year, but only IL33m. in the Bik'a."

CONTRARY to the complaint we heard in all the moshavim we visited that the Jewish Agency's Settlement Department planning was all wrong, Karmon insisted that Gilgal did not suffer from that problem.

In the moshavim, all the farm managers and farmers we met cursed the Agency planners soundly for plumping for a farm economy based primarily on vegetables. The assumption had been that the heat of the Bik'a would ensure early ripening and high prices for both the local and export markets. It turned out that the Arava and the Rafiah vegetables come in oven earlier, and the banana prices were simply not achieved by the Bik'a farmers.

Karmon, however, maintained that the problem was primarily the small scale of the moshav farms (about six acres each, divided into several crops). On the kibbutz, larger areas permitted more rational and more highly mechanized techniques, which returned a profit despite saline soil and later-than-expected ripening.

In the moshavim, the new planning calls for growing flowers under plastic hothouse conditions and a shift from vegetables to fruit and grapes. The trouble is that it takes at least four years for orchards to yield fruit and not all the moshavim may have the patience and the financial stamina to hold out that long.

NEARBY Phasael is perhaps the most developed of these moshavim. It is just celebrating the 10th anniversary of its original foundation where Ma'aleh Ephraim is today and the sixth since it moved to its present site.

Eltan Noy, its hired farm manager, who is a Hebrew University graduate in farm economics, told us that Phasael is one of the moshavim making the change from vegetables to

fruit and viticulture. It is strong enough to handle the transition although there has been some disappointment at the failure of the early years after a decade of backbreaking toil in the enervating heat of the Bik'a.

Phasael has built 76 houses for farm families so far, but only 46 are occupied. The plan is for the absorption of an additional 7-10 families a year.

Among the relative newcomers are Eytana, a graduate of Bar Ilan University's psychology faculty, and her husband, a retired army officer. Eytana is in charge of the moshav's membership committee. Why did a city girl like her come to Phasael?

"My husband's parents were once moshavniks and his lifelong dream was to return to the soil. I decided to give it a try while we were still young."

"The most satisfactory aspect of our coming here is that everything we were promised in regard to the quality of life has proven true. There have been two major disappointments: the unbelievable drudgery on a moshav where an awful lot of the farm work is still done by hand despite all the grand talk about mechanization; and the great difficulty in finding suitable professional work for women who don't want to spend all their time working on the farm."

IN ADDITION to the well-planned smallish (75 sq.m.) homes and the lovely lawns and gardens, another outstanding aspect of the "quality of life" is the ubiquitous swimming pools, without which it would be next to impossible to live in the Bik'a's blazing 40 degree-plus summers.

That and the telephones. Every family in the Bik'a seems to have a phone, and one local wag suggested that this is possibly a come-on to attract settlers from Israel's "disadvantaged" older regions.

On the other hand, a place like Phasael, bathed in sunshine all year long, would seem to be in the running for the Prize for Short-Sighted Non-Planning. Sun-heaters are conspicuously absent; water is heated, and houses are cooled in the long summer by electricity.

Eytana and Eitan take great pride in emphasizing Phasael's difference from other moshavim in its attitude to the use of the cheap and easily available Beduin labour.

Nevertheless, they charge that the planners should have realized the impossibility of running a self-labour moshav farm based on vegetable crops which require many working hands during the harvest seasons.

At one point, they noted, it was decided to permit every farm family to hire a maximum of two Arab workers for those periods; but the moshav makes do mostly with volunteers from abroad, who are paid IS900 a month in addition to their keep. In the high season their number reaches 50.

Nearly all the settlers we talked to spoke of the changes that will be wrought if and when the Trans-Samaria highway is completed. Most of the heavy earthmoving work has been



(Above) Hanan Mendel, Ma'aleh Ephraim's culture and education coordinator, looks at plans on floor of new town's offices. In background is Miri Adar. (Below) Ma'aleh Ephraim as it looks today. (Opposite page) Kibbutz Gilgal, with the mountainous 'wall' of the Rift Valley in the background. (Photographs by Karen Ben-Zion)



done, they claim, and the road could be finished in a year, if it were given adequate priority. Tel Aviv would then be an hour's drive away (an exaggeration spurred by wishful thinking; 90 minutes would be nearer the mark). That would slash the cost of transporting produce to the coastal plain markets and to Ben-Gurion Airport. More important: it would put an end to the unhealthy feeling of isolation from the rest of the country.

NOWHERE in the Bik'a could that feeling be more justified than at Bekeot, far up on an internal ledge of the slopes that sweep down from the heights of the Samaria massif to the depths of the Jordan Valley. It is also the settlement most in trouble, according to the regional council's Israel Nedivi.

Avraham Geva, Bekeot's newly-hired farm manager, agrees, for it was hit hardest of all by the mistake of basing their economy on early-ripening winter vegetables.

"In our case," said Geva, "the fact that we are so high up the slopes means that we never really qualified as a valley settlement, because our climate is too cold. In addition, we have very little land, 600 dunams (about 125 acres) all told."

Quite a number of the settlers have left over the years and the population is now down to 26 families. Nearly all of them are in debt to the tune of IS100,000 or more. Under the revised planning Bekeot too, has gone over to flowers in plastic hothouses and to orchards and vineyards, but the transition appears to have been more difficult here than anywhere else. Says Geva:

"I've no doubt that to the few families who are sticking it out for another year or two in anticipation of a Rafiah-type of agreement if Israel has to withdraw from here, IS3m. for 10 years of backbreaking work seems eminently fair and worth waiting for. But they are a tiny minority. The rest are making a valiant effort to make the newly-planned farms work and pay. The next year will tell. If they succeed, we will begin attracting new families and filling the place up. If they don't, most of them will leave."

BLONDE, statuesque, Miri Adar, is the secretary of the administrative body putting up the regional urban centre, Ma'aleh Ephraim. She and her colleagues, Hanan Mendel, who is in charge of education, sports and culture, are the town boosters.

The biggest thing in Ma'aleh Ephraim, according to Miri, who came there with her husband and two children from Jerusalem's Givat Mordechai, is children: an average of 3-4 for the 110 families who have settled there in the past two years. Children and the quality of life.

"The air is clean. It is blessedly quiet, the homes and gardens are beautiful, and there's something doing here nearly every night." (Hanna Bavli was coming that night — remember?)

Ma'aleh Ephraim's main problem? "No work. We built an impressive industrial section, but there are hardly any factories there to speak of. I think that the main reason is the uncertainty of setting up a plant in an area whose retention by Israel is not absolutely certain."

WHAT DO the Bik'a people think of the compensation proposals for the Rafiah moshavim announced during the week of our visit?

Nedivi: "Outright corruption. For IS1m. you can buy a good farm in nearly any veteran moshav in Israel. The sums being spoken of, of up to IS3m. per farm family, are just a rip-off. If that's really approved, it will have a horrible effect throughout the country. People having such sums of money dangled before their eyes will have less determination to fight to stay in their settlements. Sure, the Rafiah settlers have compensation coming to them, but in this case a totally out-of-line quantity has turned into a question of quality."

Gilgal's Avner Karmon: "It's a real scandal. The two kibbutzim there, Sufa and Holit, have not asked for such compensation but are having new kibbutzim built for them within Israel. This is what should have been insisted on for the Moshavniks too."

That was the sentiment echoed by many others in the Bik'a who give the impression that they care to put down roots in the arid soil, and will fight to stay there rather than take the money and run if it is offered. To date, no one is even contemplating such an offer, but whether or not the Bik'a is to go the way of Rafiah will be one of the main questions to confront the next government.

It will most likely be a Labour Government. The Bik'a is Labour's baby. But then, so were Yamit and Rafiah.

OPINION

CLASHES with the police are nothing new in Israel. When illegal demonstrations are dispersed, it happens that blows are exchanged, with casualties on both sides. What is novel is what occurred in 1975 at the Ashkelon oil port.

During a strike against dismalls, pipeline workers commandeered four service vessels, defied the law — and rammed a pursuing police launch. This looked like something different, an act of deliberate aggression against the forces of law and order.

Since then the habit of violent opposition to agencies representing the sovereign authority of the state has caught on. A 2,000-dunam field in Sinal was supposed to be handed over to the Egyptians in 1978, under the terms of the peace treaty. Settlers in moshav Neot Sinal, backed by supporters from outside, refused to vacate the terrain. They threw burning torches and stones at Israeli soldiers, clubbed them and sprayed insecticides on them.

Their opposition achieved at least a measure of success. Prior to this pitched battle and in a desperate effort to avert it, Deputy Prime Minister Yigael Yadin helicoptered in to negotiate with the demonstrators. He telephoned the prime minister, who was in London. Begin said he would ask Sadat to let the settlers go on cultivating the field until the final withdrawal from Sinal in 1982. (Sadat refused.)

The moshavniks were offered IL20m., at last year's prices, in compensation for the loss of this single, albeit large, vegetable field. It is hard to say whether the violence of their resistance had contributed to upping the ante; it certainly did not harm their cause. As tough-minded people commonly declare, the only way to get things done in Israel is to bang the table, and maybe not just the table.

The offence in Neot Sinal can properly be described as a riot, for which the permissible penalties are heavy. Resisting the police or the armed forces in the performance of their duties is a grave offence warranting prison sentences.

Not so in these cases. The oil pipeline workers who assaulted the police in Ashkelon were fined IL1,000 each. In the Neot Sinal trial, the court took account of the settlers' idealism and high-minded motives.

Two members of *The Post's* staff comment on this page on the use of violence by various groups in Israeli society. In one of the articles the defiance of the law — and the acquiescence of the authorities — to achieve certain gains is sharply condemned; in the other violence is seen as an expression of frustration.

Rewards of violence

Even so the penalty seems derisory: one of the accused was jailed for six weeks, eight others were fined IS800-600 apiece.

VIOLENCE HAS become a profitable business. You hit the headlines and achieve exciting publicity. The government, panicked, makes concessions. At the end of the day you may suffer a trifling punishment. What is there to lose?

So it has gone with the settlers in Pithat Rafiah. Their patriotic sensibilities are so outraged by the proposed surrender of their living-space in the Yarmit area to the Egyptians, that they demanded extra-large financial compensation for vacating it. The time sequence goes as follows:

Stage One: the government's offer of indemnity is rejected out of hand as not worth discussing.

Stage Two: the government is attacked for its bureaucratic ineffectiveness in letting time pass without thinking up a solution.

Stage Three: the settlers say there will be bloodshed if a solution, satisfactory to them, is not submitted within a fixed space of time.

Tractors will take to the field like battle chariots. Communications between Israel and Egypt will be cut. The normalization process — with the first Arab state that Israel has brought to the negotiating table — will be sabotaged. All that because 350 families are dissatisfied with a cash offer.

Stage Four: the government yields. Each settler's patriotic conscience is bought off for around IS2.5m. a farm.

By David Krivine



The habit of ignoring the regulations is spreading. Residents of Mea Shearim in Jerusalem beat up tax-collectors. Doctors ignore back-to-work orders. Gad Greiver refuses to give up a house that he built illegally on land that is not his.

The High Court of Justice orders that the Greiver house be demolished. The Gadera neighbourhood say they will resist the application of the court's verdict by physical force. Intimidated, the government stays the hand of its brokers — until the matter becomes a public scandal. The attorney-general orders that the job be done.

At the last minute there was talk of compromise. This time the attorney-general put his foot down. A failure to demolish would mean that there is one law for the strong and another for the weak. The neighbours' threat to use force constituted "civil rebellion," he stated. Precisely.

BOTH PARTIES to the above conflicts are guilty. The law not only has to be obeyed, it also has to be enforced. If the Greiver house is not pulled down, the government is in breach of the law, just as the residents of Gadera who try to prevent its demolition are in breach of the law.

The residents' most potent argument is that the country is full of illegal structures and shacks, so why attack just this one fine building? The government is here gravely at fault. It has with its own hands created the impasse that it now deplores.

The reasons justifying its apathy are question-begging ones. Shimon Peres, when transport minister in a previous government, was asked at a meeting with the staff of *The Jerusalem Post* why the public is not made to comply with the ban on smoking in buses? His answer: what can we do in the face of opposition by 6,000 bus drivers?

What the government can do is one of two things: either enforce the law or repeal it. The third option — to leave regulations on the statute-book and let the population thumb their noses at them — is just not on. Worst of all, the government enforces the rules without compromise where the citizenry is law-abiding, but agrees to compromise whenever a fractious group digs in its heels and refuses to comply. This puts a premium on disobedience.

Such policies undermine the authority of the law. If everyone smokes in the buses, the ban on smoking becomes ridiculous. If many people build illegally and to all intents and purposes get away with it, the decree requiring that all construction be licensed loses its validity. If unpleasant measures are suspended against persons who oppose them violently, then all will oppose violently.

The danger is that not only the troublesome and controversial edicts will be abused, but that the sanctity of the legal system as a whole is called into question.

The Greiver house will have to be dismantled because the High Court said so. In all fairness the government should at the same time make up its mind what it intends to do about the 6,000 other offending structures and make its decision known to the public.

It should take the opportunity at the same time of repealing all the edicts it cannot and will not enforce: after which — precisely because it has itself traduced the law so many times — it must issue a public statement announcing that the law will not be traduced any longer.

The statement, to be trumpeted far and wide and made known in all corners of the land, should specify that henceforth the law is the law, that its provisions have to be obeyed to the letter and that the pains and penalties it ordains for infractions will be enforced precisely as stipulated — whether the offence is running police launches, or stoning and clubbing soldiers, or doing violence to tax-collectors, or blocking Israel's roads to Egypt, or smoking on buses, or building illegally, or anything else. Then people will know.

THE ARTS

From stain to revelation

Excerpts from a review by Art Editor MEIR RONNEN which appeared in last weekend's issue of *The Jerusalem Post*:

THE Israel Museum has opened an exhibition of major canvases and a series of earlier drawings by Morris Louis (1912-62), the first comprehensive one-man show by a major American artist to be seen in this country.

Louis' story is as dramatic and intriguing as his work. He did not find his singular, mature method of working until he was in his forties; as can be seen in this show, the things he made before 1964 were derivative and provincial. Drawings and paintings contain echoes of Matisse, Picasso, Gorky and Pollock; and later of Helen Frankenthaler, whom he met in 1963.

A secretive man who painted from morning to night, Louis looked himself in his studio when he worked. Little is known about how he painted his canvases, though it seems that he spilled the paint directly from a can and manipulated the unstretched canvas as well. Like Frankenthaler, he sometimes cropped a work after it was completed.

In less than a year after meeting Frankenthaler, Louis, after a few more derivative false starts, suddenly found himself through his new method of painting. The configurations that emerged enabled him — and Sidney Nolan, who had become a friend — to make a break with all previous painting.

The break was a conscious decision. For a few weeks after meeting Frankenthaler, Nolan and Louis had worked together, discussing how to make the break. Sometimes they even worked on the same canvas. Then they parted to find their own solutions. Succeeding, they found fame. Both of them,

liberated by Frankenthaler, also discovered their own prodigious gifts for colour.

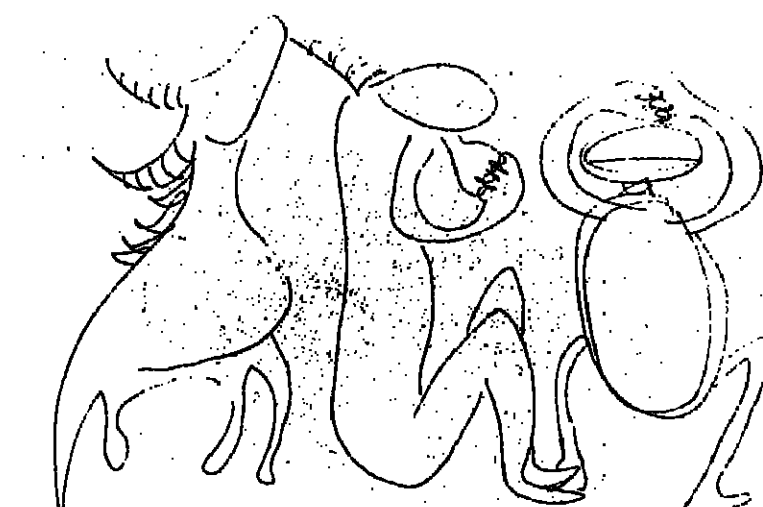
Pouring and staining had first been used by Jackson Pollock, but his method was still largely "drawn" and gestural; and he used opaque colours. Louis began by using waves of superimposed thin washes of Bocour Magna, almost like gigantic watercolours. The result was his great series of "Vells" dating from 1964, soon to be followed by the "Florals"—a variation on the top to bottom wash method—with the swathes of colour emanating from the middle of the canvas.

Louis' achievement is not about technique or even composition; it is all about the liberation of colour.

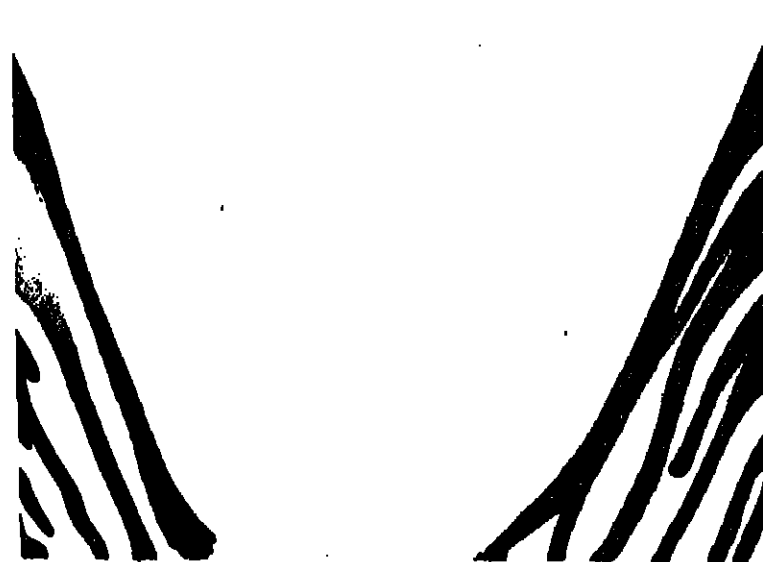
THE Morris Louis show is a feather in the cap of the Israel and Tel Aviv Museums (it will remain at the Israel Museum for two months, before being displayed at the Tel Aviv Museum for another two months). This is one of the few occasions, if not one of the first, when Louis' paintings and drawings have been exhibited together. Shows of works covering Louis' last important nine years are also rare as the large canvases are difficult to roll and ship, expensive to insure; and few collectors and museums are prepared to risk having them damaged.

The exhibition would not have been possible without the financial help and general guidance of Louis' widow, Marcella Louis Brenner; and the assistance and generosity of Andre Emmerich, the leading New York dealer who handles the Louis estate.

Marcella Brenner, a lecturer in museology and education at Washington University, has donated many Louis canvases to Washington, London, Danish and Canadian museums and to the Israel and Tel Aviv museums; it is these works that



Pen and ink drawing by Louis, made in 1949, and below an "unstretched" 1960.



form the bulk of the show. Others come from the Emmerich Gallery and private collections. The early drawings come from a recent Smithsonian exhibition. The catalogue of the Israel show contains a comprehensive survey of Louis' work, written by Nehama Goralnik of the Tel Aviv Museum.

Marcella and her husband Abner are frequent visitors to

Israel; and quiet financial supporters of various educational projects and institutions. Abner Brenner, a brilliant research chemist now developing a new type of energy cell for storing electricity, has also developed a completely colourless polymer for protecting Louis' paintings. Unlike other protective coverings of its type, it does not bond with the work and is easily removable.

Home-made musical

BETWEEN ACTS
Joan Borsten

AN INDIGENOUS and original new musical, *Stage Fever* opened last week at Nahmani Auditorium in Tel Aviv. Shooki Wagner, the production's driving force — and also its scriptwriter, director and lead actor — says it is a second attempt to introduce into Israel the American concept of musical comedy in which the actors also sing and dance.

"The late Giora Godik tried to do musicals here, usually imported plays translated into Hebrew," says Wagner. "But it was difficult economically and local actors were not usually singers and dancers as well — which is strange when you consider that in other countries you find such versatile showpeople by the thousands."

"So I decided to take young and inexperienced talents, give them two months of training, and put them into an Israeli musical. Hopefully, this production will provide the nucleus of a musical company."

Wagner, who is all of 30 years old, started his theatrical career in an army entertainment troupe, graduated from Tel Aviv University's School of Acting, studied ballet at Bat Dor as well as at London's Dance Centre and The Place, worked for four years as an actor in Orna Porat's Youth Theatre, has done choreography for the Jerusalem Khan and children's programmes for Israel TV, and directed a musical.

Stage Fever tells the story of a director who calls an audition not only to find actors, but also to develop a script around the life-stories of the four most interesting personalities.

The theme is not dissimilar to those of *All That Jazz* or *Chorus Line*, but the content is purely Israeli — which is apparently what a Tel Aviv judge decided last week after hearing complaints from the local representative of *Chorus Line*, who accused Wagner of plagiarism.

Snatches of the show that I saw during rehearsals looked interesting. There's a lot of new music, written by Ilan Gilboa, who previously worked with *Hakol Ovatr Habibi*, Shlomo Artzi, and Yossi Banai. It is a combination of jazz, punk and rock styles.

ASSI DAYAN's new movie, *Am Israeli Hai*, billed as an exotic comedy, is currently being shot in Eilat. The story of a Knesset Member shipped by his party south to recover from sexual impotence stars Eyal Gefen, Hanna Laslo, Hanan Goldblatt and Caroline Langford.

FRANCOIS TRUFFAUT, the distinguished French film director, arrives in Israel on December 9 to attend the premiere of *Last Metro*. The movie, set in World War II, deals with the climate of mounting anti-Semitism in France during 1942.

A sequel to frustration

By Robert Rosenberg

That a riot broke out in the Musrara quarter of Jerusalem recently — after the shooting by a policeman of a 17-year-old suspected car thief — is incidental. The riot, in which three police officers were hurt, broke out because the teenagers are bitter and frustrated. They have grown up believing that force is the only way to make a point.

It wasn't the adults, or even the majority of the teenagers who were out in the street throwing rocks, setting tyres alight, burning garbage bins.

Most of the 2,000 residents of Musrara are tired of the ugly headlines about their neighbourhood. They are resigned to the damp walls in the old Arab houses that are so beautifully spacious, and by the same token so hard to keep warm during Jerusalem's raw winters. They see that City Hall has been doing some rehabilitation work — it began even before Project Renewal was brainstormed by Prime Minister Begin — and they remember that much of the impetus for that rehabilitation was provided by original Musrara riots of the early 1970s, when the Black Panthers ruled the roost.

But it's the teenagers who should be worrying the people of Israel. For these kids haven't got any values. There's nothing, literally nothing, they believe in.

created the problem. And in the neighbourhood they said that something had better be done to improve the quality of life, and quickly.

All three sides in this issue are right — from their point of view. But while City Hall is capable of listening, and while the police have been known to compromise or even to change their policy if they are proved wrong, the teenagers of Musrara can neither listen to anybody else or change the way they are. They can't change because the chips on their shoulders have become larger.

SOME PEOPLE may think this is an apology for hoodlums who ought to be locked up. Others may be prompted to offer a contribution towards a new community centre. Both groups would be wrong. What is needed is some tough decisions about what is to be done to stop young hotheads from trying to impose their violent will on the rest of society, along with some even tougher thinking about what has been wrought in Musrara.

Hopeless, frustrated, and without values, the children of Musrara are the children of every slum quarter in the country. Their parents have been exploited, say these 18-year-old babies and 10-year-old adults. It doesn't matter whether the Ashkenazi establishment intended the Sephardi to be the labourers of the Jewish state. It worked out that



Delegates to the Jewish Agency Assembly last year visit Musrara. (Zoom 71)

way, and those who are paranoid cannot be convinced otherwise.

The answer is not to give in to the "gimme" attitude that a Jewish-mother state has fostered in the hearts of every single group in the country.

The answer to the problem may lie in fulfilling the promise, no matter what the promise may be. For the children of Musrara can recite every promise ever made to them, by their parents and grand-

parents, who believed the Jewish state meant the coming of the Messiah, or by the Labour Party, which promised them decent wages for decent work and gave them slum housing, slum education, slum health care and slum welfare; or by the Likud, which promised them that things would be better, be different.

Robert Rosenberg is a Post reporter who specializes in social problems.

Welcome the harp

MUSIC AND MUSICIANS/Yohanan Boehm

Harp Society was inaugurated; and many national societies were organized and began to bring teachers and performers together for the promotion of activities connected with this rather despised instrument.

In earlier centuries the harp was accepted as a pastime for royalty and the daughters of aristocrats; it came into modern use with the growth of orchestras, which required their inclusion for the scores of 19th-century composers.

THE ACQUISITION and use of a harp present additional problems: a student's harp (to be used until solo status is reached) costs about \$8,000 (before import tax, etc.); a Concert Grand costs between \$12,000 and \$18,000 (the German model costs even more).

Transportation, unless arranged by an orchestra, is a difficult and expensive business.

Jobs in Israel are very scarce; only the larger orchestras have a harpist, the others engage players when the occasion arises.

THANKS TO international harp contests, harp-consciousness has been raised among our audiences and composers. Composers like Partos, Tal, Ben-Haim, Maayan, Natra and so on have written over 30 pieces, from five-minute studies to sonatas and concertos (every competition has one Israeli composition as an obligatory piece, to be played by every contestant). And our audiences enjoy occasional recitals of chamber music with harp or even solo recitals.

THE ISRAEL Harp Society this year initiated activities to further the cause of the instrument. In June, some 20 players, teachers and students met in a private home to listen to a short recital and discuss their plans. During Succot, the IPO's Solists' Room reverberated with the sonorities of many harps, rehearsing seven hours daily, for three days, for the forthcoming Hanukka Concert of Twenty Harps. And now we are about to have the First Israel Harp Festival, scheduled for December 9 at the Tel Aviv Museum, with the participation of 22 players. The programme includes transcriptions of Baroque music and works by Granados, Albeniz and Salsedo, performed partly by teacher-solists in small combinations (two or three harps at a time).

The driving spirit behind all this activity is Judith Lieber, who has been a member of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra since 1963 and is presently the soloist in the Debussy Danes and the Ravel Introduction and Allegro included in the Israel Philharmonic's subscription series.

PEOPLE AND ISSUES

THIRTEEN YEARS AGO, I wrote an article about British novelist Lynne Reid Banks. It was entitled "Lynne the Moabite."

Although not Jewish, she was living at that time in Kibbutz Yas'ur, in Western Galilee, with her Jewish husband Haim Stephenson, and their three sons, who had been born in the kibbutz. Haim, like Lynne, was English by birth. He immigrated to Israel and became a founder member of Yas'ur. Lynne refused to become a member because she had certain reservations about total commitment to that way of life, and also because she had a mother of 70, who lived in England, and whom she wanted to be free to visit.

Nevertheless, she became committed to the kibbutz and way of life, and taught English to children from 11 to 18 in the kibbutz and in the district kibbutz high school.

In 1971, after Haim had lived on the kibbutz for 22 years and Lynne had been there more than eight years, they left for London, intending to stay for a year. They are still living there, apparently quite at home. But, like Yehuda Halevi, Lynne feels that her heart is in the east, although she is in the uttermost west. She remains possessed by Israel.

Her latest book, *Letters to My Jewish Sons*, is a story of Jewish survival and her own rationale for Zionism. She is in Israel, for the eighth time since she left, to work on an oral history of the War of Independence, based on tape-recorded interviews with over 30 people, Jews and Arabs, who were involved in the war.

Her subjects include fighters of all ranks, as well as women, children and others who played non-combatant roles. She has included Arabs and members of the Jewish underground movements.

"The idea is to give a vivid and, if not comprehensive, at least colloquial, picture of the War as remembered by participants," she says. "A perspective of 32 years on the events make the reminiscences more interesting, especially in view of their expectations at the time and all that has happened since."

At the same time, she is working on a new novel — her first for adults in eight years — in which Israel and Israelis play major roles.

HOW DOES Lynne Reid Banks, a gentile, explain this continued preoccupation with Israel?

The heart of the Moabite

The Post's Philip Gillon talks with visiting British novelist Lynne Reid Banks, who lived on a kibbutz for eight years, about her feelings for Israel and her continued preoccupation, as a gentile, for the country.

She quotes herself from the article I wrote all those years ago: "Why do I love Israel so much? I think it is the quality of intensity, of living life to the full. Perhaps it is something to do with the danger, of which one is always aware... I was an Israeliophile long before I met my husband. I was only a girl when I first heard about the horrors of the Holocaust — it made me interested in Jews. I began to look around, to see what Jews were like..."

Looking up from the article, she comments: "All that is still true. Israelis are the most exciting, most stimulating, most enjoyable, most challenging — and most maddening — people in the world."

"They affect me like strong drink — everybody else tends to seem flat by comparison. I remain very attached to Israel, very identified, very keen to come back here to live some day. The more Israel is attacked in the world, the worse things become politically — even though I see things going all wrong, feel wrong directions are being taken — the more desperately I want to go back."

When she lived here, she made the disconcerting discovery that the Orthodox establishment which lies behind the Israeli bureaucracy did not accept or welcome her or her three sons, Adiel, Gillon and Omri.

"I think I came to maturity when I decided to stop paying tolerant liberal lip-service to Orthodox religion. I'm an atheist who has lost all respect for all forms of orthodoxy, Jewish or otherwise — they are all superstitious, retrogressive and obsessed with a desire for power. They abandon their spiritual values as soon as they get any power at all."

"I'm a humanist and such hope and trust as I have hung on to, I put in human beings, not in any god. I read somewhere just the other day that the Lubavitcher Rebbe said that the Holocaust was a punishment imposed by God on the Jews."



Could one imagine a more revolting thought?

DID RELIGIOUS coercion in Israel have anything to do with her decision to leave Israel? Did she fear for her sons' future here, as the children of a non-Jewish mother?

"Well, there would be problems for them, obviously. I remember when you interviewed me before, I was rather upset about the fuss there was at the Interior Ministry about registering them. But now I realize that is just something I would have to come to terms with. It may well be impossible for the Establishment here to accept me officially, ever, however much I identified or contributed."

"In a way, why should they? Why should they want you here? Jews have been outsiders everywhere and have had to bear it. In a way, it's only fair for a gentile who wants to join them to taste that wormwood from time to time."

"Not that I wouldn't fight the bureaucratic bigots for my children's rights as equal citizens. Why should they not get married here, for instance? But to convert to gain some spurious acceptance I would not do. Not, as I once told you, because I would have to lie to the rabbis. I respect them any more. But I still respect myself."

"The heroine of the novel I'm

working on is non-Jewish, married to a non-Jew, childless, mysteriously attracted to Israel, but suspecting that there is something dark and undiscovered in her feeling for the country.

"She falls in love with an 'ugly Israeli' — that is the only way she can really get to grips with the place. There is a dark side to Israel. It's very easy to look only at the bright side, very easy to love the kibbutzniks and the gallant fighters, the intellectuals and the idealistic peace-lovers... but one must come to terms with Israel as a whole, the dark as well as the bright."

"And just as the bright side can tarnish, sometimes the dark side, when you explore it compassionately, with a profound need to accept it, can turn out not to be so dark, after all."

PEELING as she does, how did she ever come to leave us?

"We didn't intend to leave permanently when we went to London in '71. There were several reasons why we decided on a year's leave from the kibbutz. My mother was then over 70; I'm an only child and she missed me. I had to face up to the fact that, in eight years at Yas'ur I had only produced one and a half novels."

"Teaching at the kibbutz school left me neither time nor energy to write, and seeing the same faces all the time did not provide adequate stimulation. Also, I was determined to give Haim a chance to prove that he was a real sculptor, not just a kibbutz sculptor, stealing time from his gardening to work on his art. And I thought it was time to see what sort of a housewife and mother I'd make."

How did it turn out?

"The first year in London was very hard. I'd never had to run a house, cook family meals, cope with laundry and shopping and all that, and write books as well. Before I went to live in Yas'ur I had led a carefree bachelor life."

"Still, we assumed that, at the

end of that year, we'd go back to the kibbutz. In Israel, we had insisted on the children learning English. Every day something else hurt. Now, he's too busy in the mornings to wait in line for the doctor. He works four hours a day at a sheltered workshop in his neighbourhood sponsored by Telam, an acronym for the Hebrew name meaning employment for the elderly. This year, Telam has become the third project to be assisted by Bank Leumi's Keren Yovel (Anniversary Fund), which is providing three years of support for worthy projects for the aged and for troubled youth.

Yisrael Karmi, chairman of Telam, said that he volunteered to set up sheltered workshops for the aged as a result of his extensive experience as an official of the Labour Exchange. It was extremely difficult to find appropriate work for older people, whose physical or mental limitations prevented them from leaving their neighbourhood

or doing any but simple tasks.

"Before I retired, I wrote a report recommending that sheltered employment be set up for this section of the population, and I decided that the best way to ensure that something got done was to do it myself."

Today, Telam has 50 of these sheltered workshops — providing part-time employment to people who would otherwise sit home and complain. They call them clubs, because the social contact is considered at least as important as the work itself, and thanks to Keren Yovel, it has been possible to decorate some of the premises with curtains, pictures and appropriate furniture, as well as to plant gardens where space has been available.

The relationship with Bank Leumi

THE COMMUNITY

YAAKOV, aged 70, used to be a frequent patient at the sick fund clinic. Every day something else hurt. Now, he's too busy in the mornings to wait in line for the doctor. He works four hours a day at a sheltered workshop in his neighbourhood sponsored by Telam, an acronym for the Hebrew name meaning employment for the elderly. This year, Telam has become the third project to be assisted by Bank Leumi's Keren Yovel (Anniversary Fund), which is providing three years of support for worthy projects for the aged and for troubled youth.

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Too busy for complaining

LEA LEVAVI
Jerusalem Post Reporter

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The relationship with Bank Leumi

also promises to increase the amount of work available, since the bank gives Telam jobs to do, and even requires its private contractors to subcontract parts of their work to Telam.

THOUGH SOME of the elderly workers said they would like to earn more money (they are paid at piece rates, and can earn anywhere from 1800 to 18600 a month, depending on the number of units completed), most are grateful for the chance to get out of the house and keep busy.

"This is easier than cleaning houses," said Shoshana, who had

been a cleaning woman for over 30 years. "I earn much less here, of course, but I don't have the strength to clean anymore and here I have friends to talk to."

"It doesn't matter how much we earn," Yosef said. "The important thing is that we feel good and have somewhere to go every day."

Deborah Landau, who had directed a welfare office in Tel Aviv before her retirement and now is a volunteer social worker for Telam, added:

"There's one woman who always dreamed of buying her husband the most expensive pair of shoes she could find. On her National Insurance that was impossible, but when she got her first cheque from Telam she went out to buy the shoes. She also wanted to buy her granddaughter a talking doll. That

was another thing she could do now that she couldn't do before.

"It's not just the money as such; it's the fact that each one can do whatever it is that makes him happy and that he couldn't have done without this extra income."

Karmi pointed out that the workshops can't pay the workers more, because the only way they can get work is to be competitive in price.

Altogether, the 50 clubs around the country are serving about 700 retired persons. Telam also has clubs for the aged. The mobile handicrafts (sometimes for profit, with the proceeds sales going to support this and other worthwhile social projects), as well as physical fitness and home repairs courses.

If an individual can still work in the open market, Karmi and his fellow Telam volunteers try to do selective placement, finding an appropriate part-time job with a public or private employer.

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A 'memorial' in Russian

Reporter Judy Siegel tells of the remarkable translating achievement of a Russian immigrant who has begun on a venture which could become a life work.

numbers and gender like most Israelis are helping her in her current project.

THE GRANDDAUGHTER of a ritual slaughterer in Kiev, Gurfinkel "always believed in God but never had the chance to observe all the commandments."

She settled in Israel with her parents six years ago, after waiting only a few months for an exit permit. After five months at ulpan in a mil. After five months at ulpan in a mil. After five months at ulpan in a mil.

Netanya absorption centre, where she began to teach herself Judaism and practice what she studied. Last year she married a *ba'al teshuva* from Moscow whom she met in Israel.

She took a job translating books from German and English into Russian. Her first try at Hebrew translation was the result of collaboration with the Jerusalem poet Ze'evi. Gurfinkel translated a small collection of Ze'evi's poems into Russian in 1976, leaning on a dictionary for help. "One can't do it mechanically," she points out.

"Language is a very personal thing, with hidden meanings and nuances, and they must be captured in the translation."



Frima Gurfinkel. "I don't want to make it a business."

The young woman then got a job at Menora Publishing, which produces a quarterly journal in Russian for immigrants. As she worked on articles by the late Chief Rabbi Avraham Yitzhak Hacohen Kook, and by the mentor of the modern American Orthodox rabbinates, Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik, she absorbed new ideas as well.

But she decided that Russian immigrants need basic works that could, in concise language, teach them about Jewish fundamentals. "I decided it must be Rashi," she

recalls. Menora printed her translation of Rashi for the portion of *Bereishit* in a series of three issues of its quarterly, and the response was very encouraging. BUT SHE and her father, Aharon Gurfinkel, realized that her envisioned project of translating the commentary for all 54 portions of the Pentateuch was too massive for the journal. They decided to set up a non-profit organization called *Gesher Hateshuva*, or the "Bridge to Penitence," to publish her booklets.

Five have so far been printed (it costs about \$1,500 to produce 1,000 copies of each issue), and three more are at the printers. They have received the enthusiastic endorsement of Prof. Yeshayahu Leibowitz and several other Hebrew University scholars.

Some of the money came out of the Gurfinkels' own pocketbook, while the rest was provided by various funds. If she had enough money, Gurfinkel estimates that she could complete the entire 54 booklets in another three to four years.

"I don't want to make it a business," she insists. "We give out the booklets free, and only to people we are certain will study them."

Among those who request them are Russian immigrants in the army and in absorption centres, and others who hear of her work by word of mouth. (The mailing address of *Gesher Hateshuva* is P.O.B. 8209, Jerusalem.)

SHE DREAMS of sending the translation to Russian "dropouts" in the U.S. as well as to Jews still in the Soviet Union.

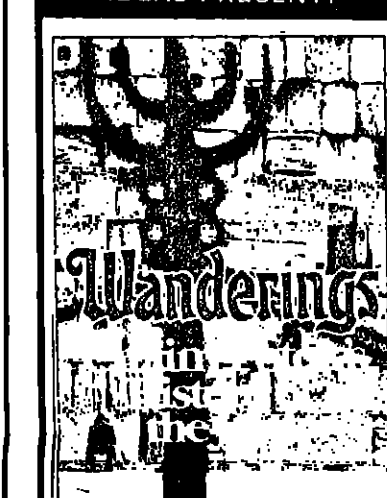
Although there is still much to be done on the Pontateuch translation, Gurfinkel would like to translate Rashi's commentary on the whole Bible.

Another project she envisions for herself is producing her own commentary on Rashi's commentary — something that could be useful because of the rabbi's terse style and tendency to use incomplete sentences. The culmination of her work would be a "new translation of the Pentateuch with Rashi included" instead of a standard word-by-word translation.

She realizes that Rashi could easily become her life's work.

A moving touch in the existing booklets is the dedication of each one to a Jewish community that was decimated in the Holocaust. The first one — *Bereishit* — memorializes French Jewry who died during the Nazi era, while *Vay'era* is dedicated to the Jews of Kiev (including those tens of thousands who died at Babi Yar). Future volumes can also be a memorial to the loved ones of sponsors.

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High, dry and handsome

Mitzpe Ramon is on the lookout for the dawn of a new era. The Jerusalem Post's JUDY SIEGEL accompanied a group of prospective settlers to the Negev development town, and found out what it has to offer.

MITZPE RAMON is a town with almost everything — except enough people.

Located in the central Negev 83 km. south of Beersheba and 148 km. north of Eilat, it already has hundreds of empty new flats, fine schools, clean and well-planned streets, nearby airbases, factories under construction and an enviable quality of life.

What this town of 3,000 inhabitants needs now is more residents.

Thus, the 40 visitors who arrived in buses from Jerusalem and Tel Aviv recently were welcomed warmly and treated solicitously — the way big UJA donors are courted by Israeli prime ministers — except that they were wanted for themselves and not for their money.

Mitzpe Ramon was overjoyed when the Association of Americans and Canadians in Israel, with funds from the Absorption Ministry, brought them — all recent immigrants from the U.S. and other Western countries.

Among them were computer programmers, social workers, a crop duster, a teacher of Japanese, a weapons engineer, a geologist studying to be a lawyer, singles, parents and pensioners.

The match between English-speaking olim and Mitzpe Ramon was carefully calculated by the organizers of the pilot trip. "We know that American Jews think a lot about their children's education," said Haim Raviv, director of the ministry's southern district. "At Mitzpe Ramon the two elementary schools (one religious, one secular) and the junior high school (there will be a senior one also in 1982) are equal in quality to those in North Tel Aviv or Arad or Ramat Gan."

Olim from English-speaking countries also care a lot about comfortable housing, good air, safety and pleasant surroundings, which can also be found in the town.

THE PEACE treaty with Egypt is likely to introduce a new era to Mitzpe Ramon. In the past, it was a victim of broken promises and missed opportunities.

It was founded in 1953, as a work camp for men employed at nearby marble and sandstone quarries and those constructing the road between Beersheba and Eilat.

Local historians suggest that the name is derived from Nahal Ramon, the Arabic name for the area, which possibly comes from the name of the Egyptian sun god Ra. Mitzpe (meaning "lookout") is an appropriate description. Almost 900 metres above sea level, it is the highest town in the country. It also overlooks the massive Ramon Crater, a geological wonder rich in minerals and a potential research site for many scientists.

In 1956, David Ben-Gurion decided it should become a full-fledged town, but its wings have been clipped. In 1967, the Israel Defence Forces planned to build army camps within a 60-kilometre radius of Mitzpe Ramon, but they were built instead, in Judea, Samaria and Gaza. With few civilian jobs in the area, the town couldn't attract new residents. In 1978, the population was a mere 800.

But Camp David required the building of new airbases in the Negev, and one of them is rising just a half-hour's drive from Mitzpe Ramon.

TALK OF POTENTIAL settlers quickens the heartbeat of Arye Krimovich, who is in charge of the town's development. He ticks off all its good qualities. But the English-speaking olim all ask the same question: "What can I do here?"

"We want people who work," smiles Arye. "But the question recurs: what comes first, the chicken or the egg? People or factories and businesses?" Three or four factories are on the way, he continues. The main plant, a hydraulics factory, will employ 200, and there is a need for machinists, secretaries and other workers. Another factory for the making of fences needs people "with good hands." An optics plant — for women workers — is opening in December.

The best employment possibilities are in health-tourism. With its pleasant, sunny and dry climate, the spot is ideal for people with respiratory problems who want a spa in the desert. There is a small youth hostel, which will be reinforced by a motel and perhaps a hotel. With Sde Boker, the Nabatean ruins at Avdat and the Ramon Crater nearby, it could be a fine tourist centre.

In addition, the Nature Reserves Authority is building a field school covering 42 dunams near the crater, for people interested in archaeology, ecology and geology, and for those who want to commune with raw nature. Ancient wells and fortresses built by King Uziah are to be found about six km. away.

One highly successful factory, called Maxima ("enchanted" in Hebrew), whose owner might easily be called a *luftmenschen*, takes everyday free air and separates it into profitable oxygen, hydrogen, nitrogen and argon gases, supplying 60 per cent of Israel's needs. Using advanced technology, the three-year-old firm employs 30.

"BUT WHAT could I do here?" mumbled a journalist colleague of mine who also went along to cover the tour. "I can't work in a factory." Then, showing that he too had been charmed by the challenge of the place, he answered his own question: "Well, there could be a local newspaper for all the



(Top) A geological wonder in the backyard, the Ramon Crater can be seen from lookout almost in the middle of town. (Above) Long view of the Negev development town of 3,000. (Below) Family strolling in the cottage area, where prices start at \$1200,000 for four rooms.



settlements in the area, or a Negev theatre troupe. I could run a community centre, or do research at Sde Boker, or teach, or even open up a small business." There is a Shekem store for military and other security personnel, and a shopping centre, two more such centres (with almost 40 shops and two supermarkets) are in the planning stage. There are also a cinema, a modern library with 25,000

volumes (it still welcomes donations of books), tennis courts, a swimming pool, a museum and a lush soccer field. "But if you can't live without a Dizengoff," he adds, "you won't be happy here. There are places to go in the evenings, but it isn't like the cafe sitting and gawking of Tel Aviv."

UNLIKE MOST development towns, Mitzpe Ramon is a small but growing number of singles. They even have a singles' club with regular meetings. Mitzpe Ramon has plentiful housing for singles and families — to rent or to buy. In fact, it currently has 400 newly built, modern apartments of two to four rooms.

But since they're government-built, the housing authorities exercise the prerogative of allotting flats according to family size. A childless couple will not get a four-room apartment.

The flat prices are incredibly cheap, by Israeli standards, and a visitor wonders whether a few zeroes have been dropped by mistake. A four-room apartment of 82 square metres costs just \$180,000. A four-room duplex cottage with a small garden goes for \$200,000. Since Mitzpe Ramon is an "A" development town by government standards, easy-term mortgages and "standing loans" (that don't have to be repaid if one remains there for several years) make it possible for almost anyone to buy a flat. New immigrants are eligible for even more assistance.

Thirty plots for the "Building Your Own Home" scheme are available to those with the money for a villa (construction costs are higher in the Negev than in the main cities).

SEVEN ENGLISH-SPEAKING olim (there are 12 such families so far) who already live in Mitzpe Ramon greeted the visitors in the Kupat Holim clinic-cum-Magen David Adom station in the town.

"After five minutes here, we were convinced," recalls Maria Mohr, a young former American who works as an accountant in the local Amidar office, and whose husband opened his own hardware store here. "It's a mixed, healthy community. Every possible language is spoken here, and there are people from every conceivable cultural background." She adds that her hobby is to convince others to live here.

Shuli Berg, a former Canadian married to an Israeli who lived abroad, moved to Mitzpe Ramon from Holon. She's a teacher, and very happy with her small classes of 18 pupils; her husband works at an airbase.

The town's only doctor, the Chilean-born Juan Melibovsky (called "Juan and only" by an amateur comedian in the hall), uses fewer superlatives. It's a

(Continued on next page)

Enigmatic Humpty-Dumpty

PERSISTENT TALK of a Moshe Dayan comeback makes one wonder whether all the king's horses and all the king's men might still put this political Humpty Dumpty together again.

While the former foreign minister maintains a light-tipped public posture, just like the miniature sphinx on his front porch, all kinds of people are busy tossing his hat into the ring.

One of them is Dayan's cousin, finance minister Yigael Hurvitz, who recently has been hinting that he'd like to bolt the ruling Likud with his three-man Rafi faction to run a Dayan-led Rafi list. Hurvitz's lieutenant, MK Zalman Shoval, has just let us have a look at a survey (prepared by the Modi'in Ezerachi research centre) which shows a Dayan-Hurvitz list getting 22.8 per cent of the votes, or 27 seats, in the 10th Knesset. Without Dayan, the Hurvitz list would get only 10 seats, according to the poll, which showed Dayan drawing votes from both big parties as well as the 1977 DMC electorate.

A CLUE to the makeup of Labour's future front-bench may be taken from a recent lineup at a Tel Aviv rally of the Alef-Citizens-for-Peres lobby. There were four speakers: party chairman Shimon Peres, secretary-general Haim Bar-Lev, Abba Eban and Chaim Herzog.

I've heard that Herzog has kept in contact with senior Republican William Scranton, a contact established when both were ambassadors to the UN. Herzog has no doubts about the former Pennsylvania governor's friendship for Israel. He says that Scranton was due to come here as his guest, but cancelled in order to stay close to president-elect Ronald Reagan.

THE BIGGEST artistic (and social) event of the past few weeks was the opening of the "Homage to Reuven Rubin" exhibition at the Parke Gallery on Rehov Gordon. Esther Rubin was approached by gallery owner Menahem Gurevitch to mark her late husband's birthday (he was born in 1893 and died six years ago) by holding a retrospective show. So she brought together 80 works from her own and her children's collections, and more from museums here and abroad.

HIGH AND DRY

(Continued from preceding page)

wonderful place to live, he says, "but we still need lots of help. Sometimes, we have to send patients to Beersheba for treatment; we don't have the facilities or the staff to treat them here. Sometimes, the bread doesn't arrive — or the eggs or even the newspapers; and there's no where else to buy them."

Still, Juan says, "there are good people here. It's not a rose garden but it's a good life. We need people who want to work." He's the only doctor in town, and there's an opening for a pediatrician. Ambulances take patients to Beersheba, and in emergency cases, a helicopter is flown in from Soroka Medical Centre.

DAVID GEDALIA, a pharmacist before he came to Israel, was unhappy in Bat Yam where he settled with his family, primarily because his young son suffered from bad health. In Mitzpe Ramon, the medical problems have cleared up completely. Now an artist,

PUBLIC FACES

Mark Segal

Five hundred persons were invited to the first night; three times the number showed up, including Ambassadors Sa'ad Mortada of Egypt, Joseph Stansford of Canada, and Mario Bonnesfous of France, U.S. Ambassador Sam Lewis was out of the country, but his wife Sallie, and her mother, Mrs. Grace Smoot, were also there.

Education and Culture Minister Ze'evulun Hammer sent his regrets, but the Knesset was well represented by its Culture and Education Committee chairman, Ora Namir.

President Yitzhak Navon and his wife, Ofra, made separate tours of the exhibition, coming down specially from Jerusalem, with the gallery owners obliged to shut the doors to keep petitioners from bothering Navon.

Another unnoticed guest was David Frost, who was brought to the party by Lord Siff of Brimpton. In the crush of celebrities, the world's most famous TV interviewer got hardly a second glance.

THE SHOW certainly was a boon for the Parke Gallery. But wouldn't it have been better to hold the exhibit at Beit Rubin, on Rehov Bialik? Only last week, after the big event, did Tel Aviv Mayor Shlomo (Chick) Lahat discuss plans to renovate the place with the Rubin family.

NEW YORK NOTES. Edward Koch, who's due to visit Israel and Egypt in a fortnight, prefers "the mayor who is Jewish" to the more conventional "New York's Jewish mayor." And while he won't verify a YIVO Yiddish Research Institute tale that his maternal grandfather was a Jewish Robin Hood back in Poland, he will say, with a chuckle: "He was a good *goniff*," he said, because he never robbed people on Shabbos.

Is there anything wrong with the fact that Paul Kedar, the Herut-appointed consul in New York, sent out Jabotinsky Foundation appeals for funds in official Consulate envelopes?



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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1980

A romance that soured

THE STRANGE, 11-year-old romance — by turns fervid and tempestuous — between Ezer Weizman and Menahem Begin's Herut Party is now finally ended.

Technically it is still open to Mr. Weizman to challenge, before the party's high court, the secretariat's decision on Sunday to throw him out in punishment for his rebellious support of the opposition's no-confidence motion in the Knesset last week. But it is not expected that he will avail himself of the opportunity.

Precisely where Mr. Weizman goes from here is anybody's guess, including his own. Judging from some previous remarks made by him in public, he has on occasion, before his formal ouster, toyed with the idea of retirement from politics. Now, however, he seems anxious to assure all and sundry that this is not the end of the political road for him, but only a fresh beginning.

During this Knesset's remaining life he will presumably seek to ready the ground for a new take-off in different, more congenial company.

That a man of Ezer Weizman's temperament could have stuck with Herut, especially under Menahem Begin's iron grip, as long as he did, is itself strange indeed.

This quintessential prickly-yet-charming rascal of a sabra, this irreverent, awashbuckling hero of Israel's wars, this reckless author of wild ideas and mind-blowing visions — this latter-day Errol Flynn of the country's politics, as he turned out to be — was hardly the man to fit into Herut's ideological straitjacket, and dutifully worship at the altar of Ze'ev Jabotinsky.

Characteristically, the worst fault Premier Begin was able, looking back, to detect in the one-time architect of Likud's 1977 victory, after Mr. Weizman's resignation as defence minister last May, was his failure to ever mention the name of the late Revisionist leader.

A dyed-in-the-wool non-conformist, Mr. Weizman was able, as cabinet minister, to reach beyond Herut's cautiously modified Arab policy, as worked out through persuasion by another maverick sabra general, Moshe Dayan. Changed circumstances made this former fighter pilot and terror of the "doves" into a powerhouse for peace, and the despair of the "hawks."

Without his ceaseless prodding, the Camp David agreements might never have been concluded. By last May, he was arguably the only man in the cabinet to take them in real earnest.

His resignation in protest over the way in which Mr. Begin and his acolytes were driving the country, and the hope of peace, ever deeper into the quagmire, did him honour, even though it was somewhat belated. Yet in choosing to bolt over a relatively trifling matter of cuts in the military budget, Mr. Weizman also gave proof of the frequent charge that he was lacking in seriousness.

A lightweight is what Mr. Begin dubbed him, and on this he was not far from the truth. Some of the more glaring defects in the peace treaty with Egypt are due to his penchant for improvisation at the expense of careful planning. So are the dreadfully hasty decisions he took in the West Bank during his last year of stewardship.

Apparently, Mr. Weizman is himself aware of his limitations — or else he would not have proposed to take second place to Mr. Dayan on a new "centre" list. However, even if he were to head it himself he could (according to some recent polls) win as many as a score Knesset seats in the next election. People are that forgetful of the lessons of the past, in this case of the DMC; and Mr. Weizman is that popular.

But no more than that. He could act as a successful spoiler, but hardly as a builder of political futures. He has breadth of vision, but no programme.

Wednesday, Nov. 26, 1980.

A guaranteed income

THE ENACTMENT last week of the Guaranteed Income Law may not deserve all the superlatives that Labour and Social Welfare Minister Dr. Yisrael Katz has showered upon it, but it is an important step forward in Israel's social legislation.

The law provides for a guaranteed minimum income, ranging from 25 per cent of the average wage for a single person permanently unable to work to 47.5 per cent for a family with two children. The sums involved do not exceed what is actually paid now, and are still at bare subsistence level for those who have to rely on these benefits. But the legal guarantee of this income will have important results.

First, the law will remove some of the moral stigma that now attaches to welfare payments. Recipients of guaranteed income will be on equal footing with others who are paid old-age, invalid or other pensions and benefits by the National Insurance Institute. What has so far been widely regarded as charity, by the authorities and the recipients alike, will now become a basic civic right.

Secondly, by anchoring these payments in law, rather than in administrative and often ad hoc decisions and by providing a mechanism of appeal to the Labour Courts, the application of equal rules to equal cases will be ensured.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 26, 1980

Turning back the clock

THE PLEAS of the doctors against the autopsy bill have had some effect on some legislators in the ruling Likud coalition, but perhaps not enough to turn the scales when the final vote is taken.

In the view of the Likud leadership, it seems, the country's health needs must still yield to the coalition agreement with Agudat Yisrael.

Since it had its first reading, a fortnight ago, the Agudah bill, largely supported by the National Religious Party, has been subjected to some withering criticism from an unexpected direction. Experts in Rabbinical law have forcefully contended that the entire bent of the measure, which would twist the 27-year-old Anatomy and Pathology Law out of recognition, is a violation of the letter and spirit of halacha.

Their point was that, in allowing all close members of a deceased person's family the right to veto a *post mortem* considered vital to promote life, whether by way of the discovery of the cause of death or the transplanting of an organ into a live sick person, the bill overturns the primacy, in halacha, of the principle of *piknuh nefesh* (preserving human life).

For this reason, too, some groups within the NRP itself have this week come out against the proposed amendments.

In apparent self-defence, Agudat spokesmen have hastily reversed their tack. The bill, so they now explain, does not seek to coerce the overwhelmingly secular community into conformity with their own religious standards. On the contrary, it seeks to uphold individual human rights. That, therefore, is the purpose of allowing every individual close relative to override even all the rest of the family in barring an autopsy.

The idea of the Agudah as a torch-carrier for individual rights, even regardless of halacha, is almost too fascinating to be ignored. But the temptation must be resisted. Suffice it to point out that on the same ground every individual close relative should be allowed an absolute right to approve an autopsy.

What really matters is that the autopsy bill is certain to grievously set Israeli medicine back, and inflict terrible suffering on large numbers of innocent persons. Some of the comments made in its support by Agudat Solons — such as, "Let them (the kidney patients) make do with dialysis," or, "Let them (the doctors) learn medicine from books and slides" — reveal the medieval mentality behind it.

Granted, physicians are not angels, and the autopsy decision need not be left to their sole discretion. The family must have some legitimate say in the matter. But there is a world of difference between acknowledgment of this precept and the bill now before the Knesset.

Dry Bones



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1980

Summit of sorts

OF ARAB summit meetings there are basically two kinds: the summit that demonstrates Arab disunity as it goes along, and even more so after it breaks up, and the summit that proclaims Arab disunity even before it has been convened. The three-day "solidarity summit" due to wind up in Amman today, is of the latter type.

The gathering has been boycotted by five of the Arab League's member-states — Syria, Libya, Algeria, South Yemen — representing the core of the "radical" bloc, and by Lebanon, as well as the one non-state member, the PLO. Besides, Egypt has been kept out — for Cairo's policy of peace with Israel is not only anathema for all the remaining "conservative" conferees, but is the cement that binds them all together.

In Damascus, the conference was billed in advance as "the summit of collapse." This was a characteristically self-serving exaggeration, designed to conceal the fact that Syria now finds itself isolated as never before in the Arab world. Yet there was an element of truth to it, highlighted by the very demonstrative absence of Syria, and its hanger-on the PLO.

It was also underlined by the Syrian troop movements in the direction of the Jordan border, reported to have coincided with the opening of the summit. Syria, it appears, was fearful that holding this conference in Amman, of all Arab capitals, would boost King Hussein's standing as a leader in the war with Israel; and so, obviously, was the PLO.

The boycott by the "radicals" may itself have constituted some setback to the "conservatives" present, and the Hashemite monarch's stock among the Arabs. But it was perhaps more than made up for by Iraq's aligning itself openly with the "conservatives." This, of course, is pure expedience.

Hemmed in as it is between Khomeini's Iran, with which it is now engaged in a war of attrition, and Baathist Syria, with which it has been locked in endless political strife, formerly "radical" Iraq has found it useful to join with the kings and sheikhs it so loved to lambast. Its best Arab friends today are Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait — and, next to them, their other "conservative" Arab friends.

From Israel's viewpoint, however, the reception of Iraq into a group of Arab states widely seen in the West as "moderate" and "West leaning," is not a particularly welcome development. Its effect could easily be to make the group even more warlike than it really is.

The real difference between the two groups, in terms of the Israeli interest, lies in their different sense of urgency. Thus Iraq is willing to wait a while, as indeed it must, before it gathers enough strength for a final confrontation with Israel. In Syria's eyes, time is running out, and it wants doomsday to be granted absolute priority on the Arab agenda. That is what King Hussein himself hinted at in his opening speech.

The "conservatives," for example, are playing for time to work out what they foresee as a potentially useful dialogue with the new U.S. administration of Ronald Reagan. To forestall such an attempt, some fresh Israeli policies may be in order. It will not do to merely bank on the intransigence of the Arabs, and on the disarray in their ranks.

IMMIGRATION FROM THE U.S.

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post

Sir, — Your description of the intention of the Jewish Agency to cut the number of emissaries to the United States by two thirds (November 17) in response to an abysmally low rate of American aliya calls to mind the behaviour of rats on sinking ships, the difference being that this ship contains the largest Jewish community in the world. After years of failing to "attract" aliya, the Agency, we read, is now taking the only conceivable step more foolish than that of maintaining its disastrous current policies, that is, abandoning the responsibility for aliya to the "local communities."

For Israel to expect salvation from a Jewish community that has failed tragically to maintain the loyalty of the vast majority of its youth, that has never advocated aliya for itself, preferring to send refugees from other continents, and that persists in investing millions of dollars in upper middle class sport facilities while American Jewish education takes on the makings of a historical catastrophe, is simply incredible.

Certainly someone in the Zionist movement has the intelligence to recognise that low aliya rates are a function of declining Jewish commitment. That this fact has had no influence on the training, selection procedures and functions of emissaries is a threat to Israel and

the entire Jewish people. The Agency persists in sending political appointees instead of idealists. The number of olim, women and religious Jews among shlichim is embarrassingly low. No serious effort is made to recruit the best of Israel's educators for what is ultimately an attempt to re-educate American Jews. Worse, in the U.S., emissaries have virtually no contact whatsoever with the Jewish educational system. Small wonder that the latest plan indicates that a new low has been reached in the failure of the Jewish Agency to understand the needs and opportunities for Israeli involvement in American Jewry.

The most important element in the future of the American Jewish community (let alone aliya) is the influence that Israel and Zionism will have there on Jewish youth. In a secular world, Israel is the single most effective statement that to be a Jew has meaningful content and that for that Jew to be a Zionist is to best respond to the challenges of our times. Surely somewhere in the Zionist organization, there remains sufficient energy and vision to respond to the challenge not by withdrawal, but by radically and intelligently increasing our efforts to turn the tide on American Jewish assimilation, on declining aliya and on the moribund state of the Zionist movement itself.

YITZCHAK SOKOLOFF
Jerusalem.

HELPING MENTAL ILLNESS VICTIMS

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post

Sir, — In his excellent review of the moving interview with Matilda Ghez on Israel TV (October 31), Philip Gilon mentions ENOSH, the organization for the advancement of the mentally disordered here.

Founded two years ago, ENOSH tries to establish contact with sufferers and their families in order to break down their isolation. It helps them understand their problems and offers them practical guidance. It is connected with professionals, official agencies and institutions for the mutual benefit of all concerned, as well as with similar organizations abroad. It tries to remove public prejudice and ignorance concerning mental illness.

ENOSH has set up clubs for its members in Jerusalem, Ramat Gan and Rehovot. It has opened the first hostel recently in the Sharon area, in conjunction with Shalvata

Hospital. It is also trying to clarify the rights and obligations of the mentally ill with regard to the army, work and hospitalization.

Branches of ENOSH, open to everyone, are now operating in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Netanya, Ashkelon, Rehovot, Ra'anana and Ashdod.

HANITA RODNEY,
National Chairman,
ENOSH

Tel Aviv.

EBAN FOR PREMIER

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post

Sir, — Abba Eban's recent "Five fallacies" (October 24) once again shows this man's intelligence, skill of articulation, wisdom and competence. He is certainly the most highly respected politician in the west. Israel needs a prime minister of his calibre.

FRANK E. WINTER
Oakland, California.

FINANCE MINISTER'S ACHIEVEMENT

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post

Sir, — Shlomo Maor's remark of November 7 that "inflation will have been higher during... Hurvitz's first year in office than during the final year of his predecessor" is irrefutable. However, the suggested conclusion, that Hurvitz has failed in his mission, is incorrect.

Since 1987, our inflation rate has approximately doubled every year (except for the 1978 pre-election year when the Labour Government froze prices, crossed their fingers, and hoped). By the standards of the past 15 years, ten of them in Labour's tools' paradise, the 1980 rate of inflation should be over 200%. Instead it will be about 135 per cent, scarcely higher than in 1978. In my book, holding down the increase to less than 10 per cent over last year's increase is a terrific achievement.

Halfa.
AVRAHAM BERKOVITS

YESHIVOT

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post

Sir, — As part of its investigation into the alleged misuse or misappropriation of government funds by yeshivot, the police would do well to check its files and see how many graduates of yeshivot are in prison or otherwise involved in crime, drugs and the like. It might then realize, together with those who are pressing for the investigation, that the best-spent money in Israel is that which goes for Torah study.

Moreover, news reports give the impression that, with all the money they receive, yeshivot are well funded, solidly financed and luxurious institutions. In reality, most yeshivot can barely meet their financial obligations. Teachers are underpaid, students are underfed and physical facilities are just bearable. The only yeshivot that are in a relatively better situation are those which get funds from overseas.

As to the products of the yeshivot, the quality of the scholars who serve in the Army through yeshivot is almost legendary, as they have proven to be the finest and most reliable in the Army.

There is certainly no better investment in the State of Israel than support of yeshivot.

CHANA HOMNICK
Amsterdam (Jerusalem).

THE CASE OF RICHARD STRAUSS

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post

Sir, — I wish to raise a delicate but, from a cultural point of view, important subject: Richard Strauss. Please note that I refer to him only, and that I do not mention Wagner, their cases being entirely different. I do not even here want to talk about Wagner, since I consider the responsibilities he assumes before history overwhelmingly crushing. That is why I deplore the "Wagner and Strauss" so often heard in your country, which puts the latter in a wrong light. This "and" is not justified.

Now, I wonder if the time has not come to reconsider the Strauss case, and his integration in your programmes, given the loss his exclusion represents in the field of symphonic music as well as in that of opera. Do not forget that we owe to Strauss one of the most powerful lyrical works inspired by Jewish history: "Salome."

In no way do I want to defend Strauss politically, since his attitude is entirely alien to me. One can but deplore that such a great artist should not have been able to comfort himself in a clear and undisputable way, as did a Thomas Mann, and should be mingled with so many others who, at Hitler's rise to power, did not want to face reality. This brings him in the initial years to some deplorable errors, revealing his unconsciousness in regard to what should have been his role, such as accepting, in 1933, the presidency of the association of musicians "to safeguard," said he, "against greater evils."

In a highly tactful and dignified letter, Stefan Zweig, with whom Strauss had just finished the opera, "The Silent Women," confronts him with his real obligations. (Zweig was answering Strauss' proposals, in view of saving their future collaboration, precious to both of them, to continue it, but in a secret way.) Zweig writes: "I sometimes feel — and I honour you for it — that you yourself are not fully aware of your great historical position, that you have too modest an opinion of yourself. A man like Richard Strauss can claim every right in public, he should do nothing in secret. Your magnificent work, which has no equal in the world of art, makes it your duty to refuse all restrictions on your free will and your artistic choice; who else but you has such a right today?"

Very soon events were to open Strauss' eyes. A letter addressed to Zweig having been intercepted by the Gestapo and transmitted to Hitler, Strauss, as early as 1936, was obliged to resign the presidency of the association of musicians. Ever after, he was suspect, and rightly so.

As a matter of fact, there is no record of any anti-Semitism on his part as is the case, for example, with Mussorgski, who is played and popular in Israel. Did not Strauss write in a well-known memorandum in 1938: "I have always taken every opportunity of making it clear to influential people here (again to my own prejudice) that I regard the Streicher-Goebbels Jew-baiting campaign as a stain on German honour, as a sign of imperialism, and as an ignoble weapon employed by untalented, lazy mediocrity against superior intelligence and ability. I take this opportunity of declaring openly that I have received so much encouragement from Jews, so much self-sacrificing friendship, generous help and intellectual stimulus as well, that it would be a crime not to make the most grateful admission of the fact..."

Stefan Zweig remained in close relations with Strauss, thus showing that he considered Strauss worthy of his esteem and friendship, and I think it would be honouring Zweig's memory to let us be inspired by his example. I know the emotional reactions such a problem can create, all the more comprehensible for me as I feel so boundless a respect for the tragedy undergone by your people. But I think the time has come to reconsider the case of Strauss despite his short-lived political weakness, with loftiness and serenity.

Paris.
IGOR MARKEVITCH

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post

Sir, — It is generally agreed by most people, except dentists, that something must be done about dental care. The exorbitant cost of dental care in Israel places a severe burden on the low-income sectors of the population who must very often postpone such care, or do without it.

ITZCHAK RACHLIN
Jerusalem.

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